

Disability Now

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Disabled people bite journalists



WOMEN IN WHEELCHAIRS ARE POWERFUL. THE GUARDIAN IS WRONG say protestors about the newspaper's portrayal of Britannia in a wheelchair to promote its European coverage. The Advertising Standards Authority, 2/16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN, has received 14 complaints about the campaign which has now finished. Protestors want a public apology. The *Guardian* regrets any offence, but won't apologise publicly. See also pages 8-9.

BRENDA PRINCE/FORMAT

Breakthrough on buses

The Government will help fund demonstration projects of low-floor, wheelchair-accessible buses put forward by local authorities.

Making this commitment at a meeting organised by Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users (DaRT) at the Commons in December, Public Transport Minister Roger Freeman said his Department would also encourage bus manufacturers to build examples of low-level

buses, but would not be giving any financial aid to the British bus industry.

A spokesperson for the Bus and Coach Council welcomed the announcement: "One of the reasons it is taking so long for wheelchair-accessible buses to become operational is the cost, so we are glad the Department is offering this financial help to local authorities."

But DaRT researcher Gina Harker was very disappointed. "We believe the Government

must introduce legislation to enforce the use of low-floor buses and invest in the British bus industry immediately. We also want minimum standards of access introduced as a requirement."

Andrew Braddock, head of London Transport's unit for disabled passengers, hoped a prototype low-floor bus would be ready by mid-1992. "We will then run the vehicles on two routes and gather the opinions of passengers."

Jobs on board the SS Enterprise

A new project to provide jobs and office space for disabled people was opened in Coventry in November.

The Empathy Enterprise Building was built by Hereford College for disabled students, the City of Coventry, and Empathy Ltd (the charitable company set up by Hereford College) using a £580,000 European Community grant.

To rent space within the building you must be either a

disabled entrepreneur, a firm employing disabled people, willing to offer disabled people training or work experience, or a community group.

Firms already there include a conference letting firm run by disabled people, a tv company run by disabled people, and a colour copy bureau. Getting ready to move in are a graphic designer, a telesales firm, and a T-shirt business.

Situated next door to Here-

ford College, the building can house 40-45 people. It is planned that 30-40 per cent of these (12-18 people) will be disabled. The rent is £5 per square foot per year and there are 8 units left, with enough space for around 25-30 people.

Empathy director Rod Seville said: "The Enterprise building operations are a recognition that too many people with disabilities are employed

Continued on page 2

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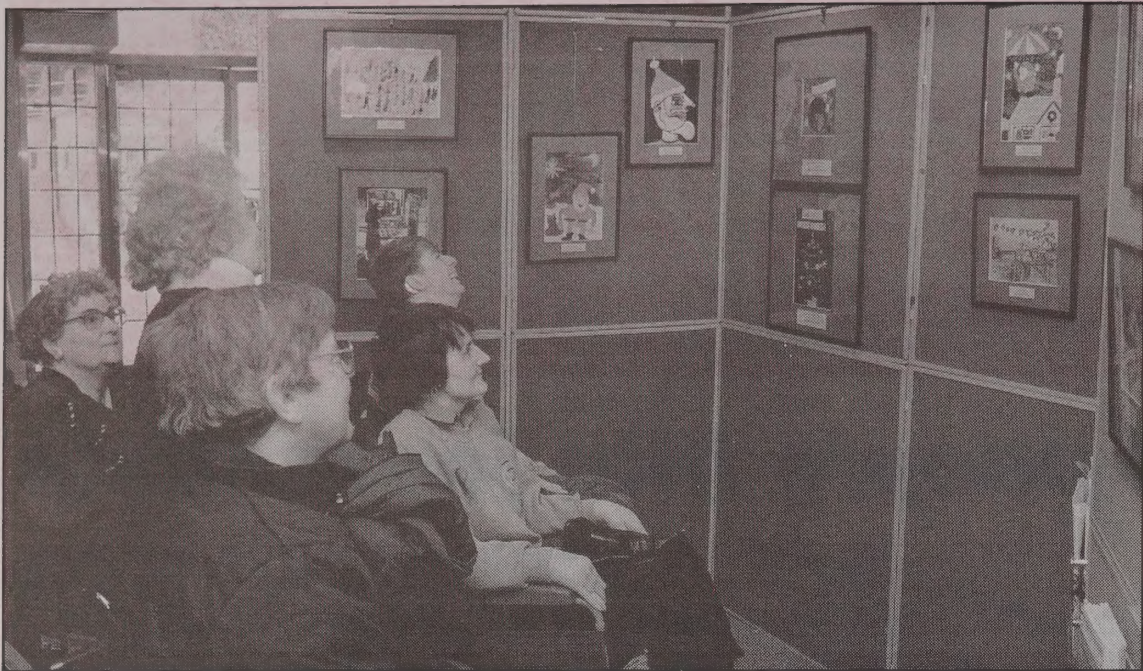


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Your Christmas creations. Members of the Freedom Centre, Sheerness, Kent (which *DN* Christmas card competition winner Angela Hart attended) inspecting *DN*'s travelling exhibition of the best 25 designs from the competition. Kindly funded by the chairman of The Spastics Society, the exhibition has been to Cardiff and is now at the Central Library in Bedford from 16 December-2 January. Go if you can - it's worth seeing.

KENT EVENING POST

Care charges campaign

Disability groups have protested to Health Secretary William Waldegrave about local authorities charging disabled people for community care services.

Sixteen charities, including Carers National Association, Greater London Association of Disabled People (GLAD), the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and the West Midlands Council for Disabled People, wrote to Mr Waldegrave in December.

The consortium says home care charges can be as much as £10 an hour, and vary widely across the country. People are also having to use personal care allowances like attendance allowance to pay for domestic help, contravening Department

of Health guidelines.

"People are angry at being asked to pay for services which used to be delivered free, via NHS staff, and are now being delivered at a cost, by social services staff," said spokesperson Frances Hasler, director of GLAD.

The groups want Government policy to ensure that:

- * service charges are the same all over the country
- * no-one is denied services because they can't afford them
- * attendance allowance is removed from means testing
- * disabled people in employment are not asked to contribute "large sums" to pay for care needs
- * and vital home nursing services will continue to be free.

Write all about it

The Royal National Institute for the Blind wants blind and partially sighted contributors for two new publications.

Living Proof will have personal anecdotes about being a visually impaired person. *Finding Words* will be an anthology of creative writing.

Articles - which can be up to 3,000 words in Braille, on tape, in Moon or in print - should not have appeared anywhere else. You can send in up to five pieces for each title.

Sharon Keefe, RNIB, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 0WS. Deadline 14 February.

Award for subtitler

Subtitling campaigner Austin Reeves won the Royal National Institute for the Deaf's 1991 "Deaf Impact" award in November.

The awards go to those who have made a lasting contribution to deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

As honorary secretary of the Deaf Broadcasting Council, Mr Reeves pushed for amendments to the 1990 Broadcasting Act which say that by 1998, 50 per cent of programmes on channels 3 and 5 should be subtitled. He is also grand councillor of the British Deaf Association.

Morag Rosie, who won an MBE in 1991, was second, and

Kathy Robinson, author of *Children of Silence*, was third.

Comic Lenny Henry and



Austin Reeves: campaigner

writer Oliver Sacks were joint winners of the "Communicator of the Year" Award, which is made to highlight the importance of communication in everyday life.

Homeless help

The Government is to give £3m over three years towards improving health care for homeless people. The move follows reports that elderly and disabled people on the streets were not getting the care they needed (*DN*, December).

Under the scheme, doctors will go out to hostels, night shelters and day centres. Health Secretary William Waldegrave said: "We hope that one longer term outcome will be to reintegrate as many homeless people as possible into the use of mainstream services." So far, three schemes in London, one in Sheffield and one in Bristol have been approved. Others are to follow.

SS Enterprise

Continued from page 1

in lower grade (often clerical) jobs. There is a need, if empowerment is to be a reality, for people with disabilities to aspire to managerial and highly skilled roles."

The new building is part of plans for a National Enterprise Park for the Disabled, due to be complete by 1996. As well as the Enterprise building and Hereward College, the Park will include a housing development.

Tel: (0203) 422042.

Disability Now

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Mencap marches on Parliament

Over 200 Mencap members made history in November by becoming the first people with learning difficulties to stage a mass lobby of Parliament.

The group, from Mencap's National Federation of Gateway Clubs, came from all over Britain to meet their local MPs before going on to an all-party meeting with Conservative MP Keith Mans, Labour MP Sylvia Heal, Liberal Democrat MP David Belotti and Plaid Cymru MP Dafydd Wigley.

They asked MPs to introduce anti-discrimination legislation, implement the Disabled Persons' Act 1986 completely, improve access to public transport and increase benefits for people with disabilities.

Roger Galletley, chairman of the NFGC said: "The day was organised to celebrate the Gateway clubs' silver jubilee and to remind MPs that there are more than a million people with learning difficulties who can vote and may make a difference to the outcome at the next election".

They are hoping to hold another lobby later this year.

The first national newspaper for people with learning difficulties was launched the same day. *Opengate*, published quar-



Gateway at Westminster. Organisers hope to stage another lobby this year.

TIM RUSSELL

terly by Gateway, will have news, interviews, puzzles and a sports page. The first edition was written by a team of 30 reporters, 25 of whom have learning difficulties.

It included interviews with the Prime Minister's wife, Norma Major, and Special

Olympics powerlifting champion Gary Jelen.

The paper has a circulation of about 50,000 and is distributed to Gateway clubs, MENCAP homes and directors of social services departments.

Gateway clubs' divisional adviser, Bryan Shepherd, who

helped set up Opengate, said: "The aim is to provide people with learning difficulties with a voice and a platform from which they can express their views."

Opengate, 117 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT.

Care crisis for elderly

Thousands of older people can no longer afford to be cared for at home, says a new report.

Counsel and Care's *Community Care - The Gaps*, says people are struggling because they are having to pay for services which were once provided free or subsidised such as home helps and day care.

The charity, which provides advice and grants for more than 20,000 older people, said many are finding it difficult to pay for essentials such as fuel.

The report also claims that an increasing number of older people cannot go into a care home because the amount of income support they receive does not cover the fees.

Counsel and Care says the situation has been worsened by the Government's health service reforms, which have led to a rapid discharge of frail older people from hospital beds into the community.

General manager Jef Smith said: "Community care is a marvellous dream which will turn into a nightmare unless more resources are provided to fund it. Local authorities have cut the amount they spend on older people and Government underfunding of voluntary organisations has made matters worse."

Community Care - The Gaps, free with SAE, tel: 071 485 1550.

* The Government has rejected calls from MPs to allow local benefit offices to top up the payments of elderly and disabled people who cannot afford to bridge the gap between care home fees charged and benefits available, because it would lead to inequalities.

The Financing of Private Residential and Nursing Home Fees, House of Commons Social Security Committee, HMSO, £8.90.

Change at Prince's Trust



Outgoing chairman of the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, William Buchanan, (left) was thanked by the Prince at the 10th anniversary party of the International Year of Disabled People. Incoming chairman, Professor Anthony Clare, told *DN* that while his predecessor was "a pro-active chair...my task is to get the advisory group together and coordinate it so that we have a clear advisory role...I feel it's seen as incidental that I'm a psychiatrist."

Leeds demo

Eight people were arrested at a demonstration against the BBC's charity fundraising programme *Children in Need* in Leeds in November. They were later released without charge. Demonstrators say police "pushed and shoved" people from the Leeds Rights not Charity group. An official complaint is to be made.

Carers' guide

The Government launched a new guide for carers last month. Produced with the help of the Carers National Association and Contact a Family, *Caring for Someone?* has advice on services and support available, such as benefits and meals on wheels.

Free, tel: 0800 666 555.

Charity ups and downs

Volunteering is on the way up, but charity giving is almost standing still, say new surveys.

The Volunteer Centre UK's survey of 1,692 people says the proportion of the population volunteering has gone up from 44 per cent in 1981 to 51 per cent today (23 million people).

But Foster Murphy, director of the Volunteer Centre, a national advice agency for volunteers and those who work with them, said growth had been patchy: "Whilst newer areas of volunteering such as environmental work and sports and leisure activity have been

expanding, traditional areas such as healthcare have remained static."

A new survey by the Charities Aid Foundation shows charities are running to stand still. The voluntary income of the top 400 increased by only 1 per cent in real terms to £1.3 billion. But legacies grew by 20 per cent from 1988/89 to represent 35 per cent of all voluntary contributions.

Volunteer Survey, £15, tel: (0442) 873311.

Charity Trends, 14th edition, £29.95, tel: (0732) 771333.

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IN PARLIAMENT

Special education needs under threat

Two education bills going through parliament have been criticised for not meeting the special needs of disabled students.

The Education (Schools) Bill, which received its second reading on 19 November, would introduce league tables to compare schools' exam performances, and change the role of school inspectors.

The Government claims it is fulfilling pledges to improve the quality of education made in the parents' charter.

But Derek Fatchett (Lab) argued that league tables could work against disabled children by deterring schools from accepting those with learning difficulties or special needs because they would pull down the exam results. "If we adopt crude league tables, the needs of those youngsters will not be taken full account of," he said.

His point was echoed by Malcolm Thornton (Con), chair of the select committee on education.

Replying, the Education Secretary Kenneth Clarke said: "Every time I listen to the comment that the tables will not sufficiently take into account the number of pupils with special educational needs ... I think that the people who make such comments are demonstrating that they cannot make intelligent use of that sort

of information".

Two days later the Further and Higher Education Bill also received its second reading. It aims to break down traditional distinctions between vocational and academic qualifications, and take funding control away from local authorities and put it in the hands of new centralised funding councils.

Baroness David (Lab) expressed the concern of disability organisations that money for disabled students will be reduced even more, and basic rights to education eroded. "The interests of those with special needs are threatened by the proposals contained in the Bill," she said.

So concerned was Baroness Warnock that the message of her report, which led to the 1981 Education Act, had been lost (the right to free education regardless of ability up to at least 19 years), that she initiated a debate on special education in the House of Lords on 20 November.

She blamed the failure on inadequate resourcing, little change in attitudes and the introduction of the national curriculum and local management of schools (LMS) in the 1989 Education Reform Act.

Both LMS and the national

curriculum were being introduced without adequate attention being paid to special needs issues, she said.

Baroness David cited evidence from The Spastics Society showing that parents knew before the Education Reform Act came in, that local education authorities were tailoring statements to match resources, rather than responding to needs.

Peers were concerned that classroom integration is happening too slowly, and there is not enough money to involve parents or meet children's assessed needs.

Charities Bill welcomed

The Charities Bill aims to improve the supervision of charities in England and Wales, introduce some control over the activities of professional fund-raisers and commercial participators when they are raising funds on behalf of charity, and update the laws governing the conduct and supervision of collections made in public places.

Overall the Bill was welcomed in the Lords during its second reading. Most peers thought that the Charity Commissioners should have more resources to match their addi-

House points

* After talks with RADAR and MENCAP, the Government has changed the proposed council tax (which will replace the poll tax in 1993). A household which includes a disabled person needing extra space for a wheelchair, an extra bathroom or kitchen or an extra room for special needs (such as a dialysis machine) will be placed on a council tax band one below similar properties. (Eg a property in Band D, value £68,000 to £88,000, would be charged Band C, value £52,000 to £68,000.)

* A ruling by the European Court of Justice, that mobility allowance can be treated as an invalidity benefit by European Community nationals working in the UK and taken with them when they go, has now been interpreted by independent adjudicators as applying to attendance allowance.

* Roger Sims' (Con) private member's bill, which would allow some nurses to prescribe certain drugs and appliances was warmly welcomed by Health Secretary William Waldegrave, so it looks likely to become law.

IN BRIEF

Apply for ILF now

The Independent Living Fund is urging disabled people to get their applications for grants in now so that when the Fund is wound up in 1993 and people are transferred to a local authority, their payments will continue.

The ILF makes direct payments to disabled individuals so that they can "buy in" care. It is now helping 10,000 severely disabled people to remain in their own homes.

Because the Fund got an extra £23 million from the Government for 1992/93 (DN, December), new awards can still be made.

To qualify you must:

- * get the higher rate of attendance allowance for day and night help (£41.65 from April 1991) or constant attendance allowance of at least this amount
- * be 16 or over
- * need to pay someone to look after you to enable you to live at home
- * have savings of less than £8,000.

Independent Living Fund, PO Box 183, Nottingham NG8 3RD.

"Come out", disabled employees

The Employers' Forum on Disability, which aims to improve the job prospects of people with disabilities, has joined forces with Midland Bank to produce the first guide aimed at helping employers monitor their disabled employees, including those who are not registered disabled.

Monitoring "is intended to help employers eliminate inequality and discrimination and to allow all employees to develop their full potential."

The first part, for policy-makers, covers the benefits of monitoring. The second, for personnel managers, explains how to do it, noting that employees are more likely to declare their disability if the information is treated as confidential and there is an obvious commitment by the company to improve business practice.

Monitoring People with Disabilities in the Workforce, £5.50 from Sheila Mackay, tel: 071-321 6591.

Citizen's Charter taped

An audio version of the Guide to the Citizen's Charter, with an introduction by Prime Minister John Major, was launched in November.

Free copies are being sent to over 1,300 organisations involved with visually impaired people.

If you are unable to get the tape through one of these groups, telephone (0892) 516157.

Quotes of the month

Lord Richard (Lab): "if I was trying to persuade people to sponsor me in a walk, a marathon or any other form of desirable activity which may be thought fit, the present drafting of the legislation would mean that I would have to get a licence. If I may be permitted to use the phrase, I think that is daft". *Explaining how the Charities Bill could affect fundraising.*

Home Office minister Earl Ferrers explained that the turnover of the charitable sector is estimated at £17,000m a year: "That is more than the whole of the output of British agriculture. When one thinks that British agriculture is in fact the largest industry in the UK, one realises that one is not in the tiddlywink sphere."

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New drug builds bone

A new non-hormonal drug which can build new bones in people with osteoporosis of the spine is now available.

Osteoporosis of the spine is a bone-thinning condition which weakens vertebrae, making them susceptible to fracture. Occurring mainly in post-menopausal women, it can cause chronic back pain, loss of height and curvature of the spine. "Didronel PMO" reduces the risk of vertebrae fracturing by building new bone.

Dr Ignac Fogelman, director of the UK's first osteoporosis screening unit at Guy's hospital, said: "This drug will particularly benefit those older women who receive no treatment for the condition because they cannot take hormonal replacement therapy."

Linda Edwards, director of the National Osteoporosis



PATRICK BAGLEE

Society, said: "Over 2 million women suffer from the condition in the UK but only 76,000 are currently receiving any treatment. Over 90 per cent of these are given only painkillers, or calcium which does not prevent bone loss. The introduction of this new drug means doctors will now be able to treat many more patients."

Didronel PMO is available on prescription only from this month for women with established osteoporosis of the spine.

Alzheimer's protein link

The Dementia Research Group at London's St Mary's hospital has proof that excess deposits of a protein called amyloid in the brain can cause Alzheimer's disease by killing nerve cells.

Scientists knew that large quantities of amyloid were present in the brains of people with the condition, but could find no proof that linked the protein to the onset of Alzheimer's.

The research group found the evidence by studying the genes of 12 families with early onset Alzheimer's, a rare, inherited form of the condition that affects older people.

Of these, 50 people developed the condition because the gene that governs the production of amyloid was faulty.

Scientists, however, are still uncertain as to why large quantities of the protein form in the brains of people who do not have the faulty gene.

Dr John Hardy, a research fellow with the group said:

"There may be many other reasons for the amyloid build-up, such as environmental factors, why the excess amyloid is produced. Our next task is to find out what these factors are."

"It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this breakthrough. If we could find out why the protein is so toxic for nerve cells, we might be able to slow down the rate of damage."

An Alzheimer's Disease Society spokesman said: "The breakthrough is important because it may lead to treatment of the condition, but this is still a long way off, and is not likely to come in time to help the present generation."

Japanese in epilepsy drug search

Scientists are hoping Japanese research into the way brain chemicals work will lead to better drugs for epilepsy.

Researchers from Kyoto

University have cloned the genes which produce receptors - chemicals which play an important role in the way the brain deals with messages.

When receptors bind with glutamate (which is necessary to the processes that underlie memory and learning), they determine the kind of signals that brain cells send each other. When the system goes wrong, the receptors become over active and epilepsy occurs.

Prof Jeff Watkins from Bristol University, who led the British team that first identified



the importance of receptors, said: "If the receptor can be studied and its structure determined, then we are half way to seeing how it works and to designing drugs that will be more effective in dampening down receptors and stopping them from becoming over-active."

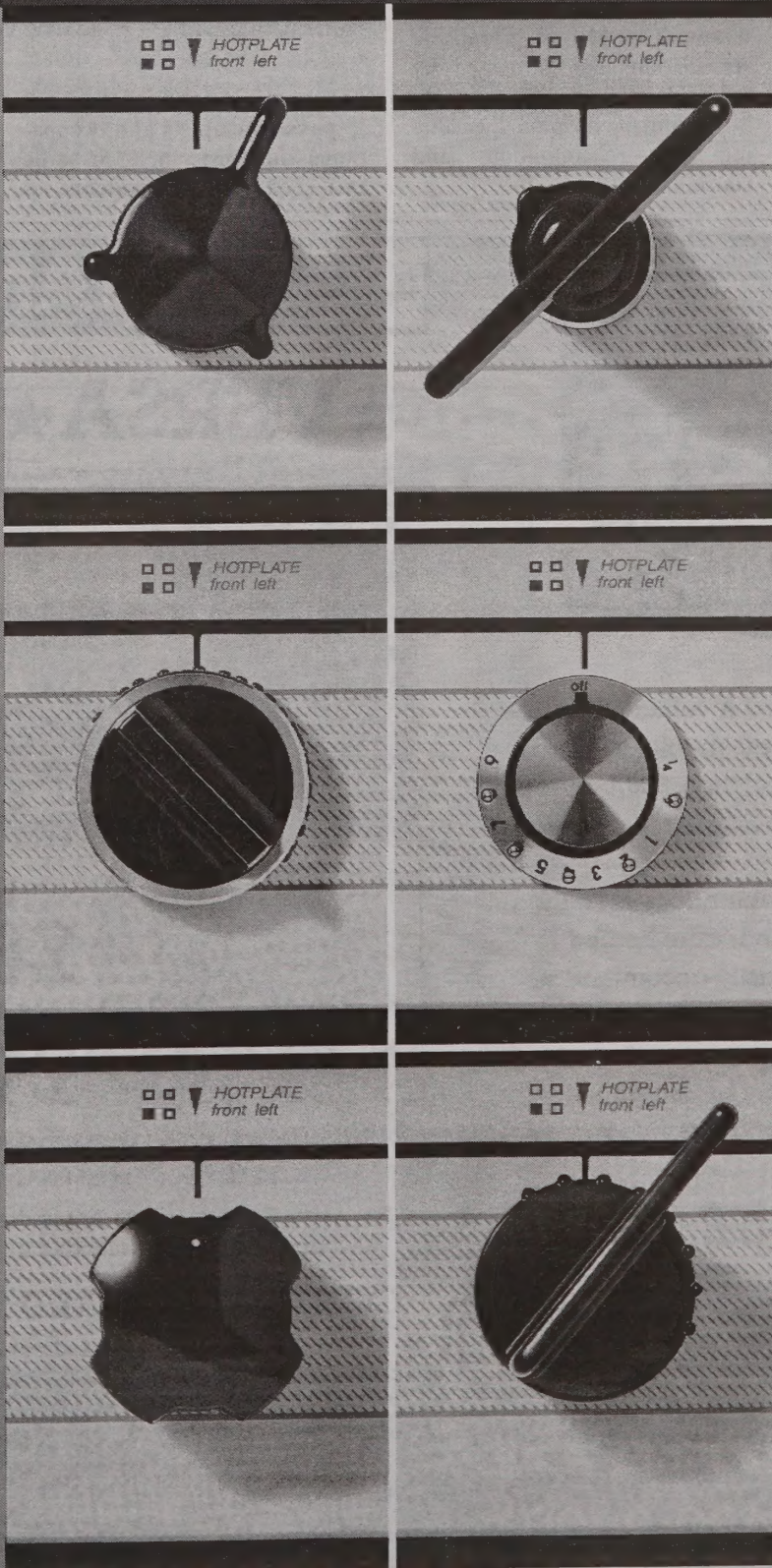
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Tim Russell reports on two new "half-way house" schemes for disabled people

Thomas Edward Mitton House in Milton Keynes is one of the first units in Europe to offer a residential rehabilitation service for people recovering from traumatic brain injury.

Run by the Disabled Housing Trust (DHT), a West-Sussex based charity, it caters for 16 people.

DHT founder and chief executive, Norman Thody explained the scheme's importance: "Many people are currently being discharged into the community with handicaps which prevent them from looking after themselves. This means that the care and rehabilitation of head-injured people after they leave hospital is mainly left to the family, while many other patients are placed in inappropriate institutions."

Mike O'Connor, the centre's operations manager, said the unit's aim was to make people as independent as possible.

"Each patient is assessed by a neuropsychologist and other specialists, such as physiotherapists and speech therapists, who decide what kind of help each individual needs."

The unit has found that by breaking down routine tasks such as cleaning your teeth or

Half-way stop on the road to independence

going for a walk into dozens of simple actions, it can enable residents with severe memory problems to make big advances.

"It's a very gradual process, which can take many years," said Mr O'Connor, "but it has been proved that this kind of rehabilitation can be effective and vast improvements can be made for many years after the injury."

The Disabled Housing Trust has already started work on a second project in Leeds which it is hoped will open in Spring 1992.

The £1 million cost of each unit is being met by charitable donations and loans. Operating costs are met from rent and fees, which are mostly covered by social security benefits and money from councils.

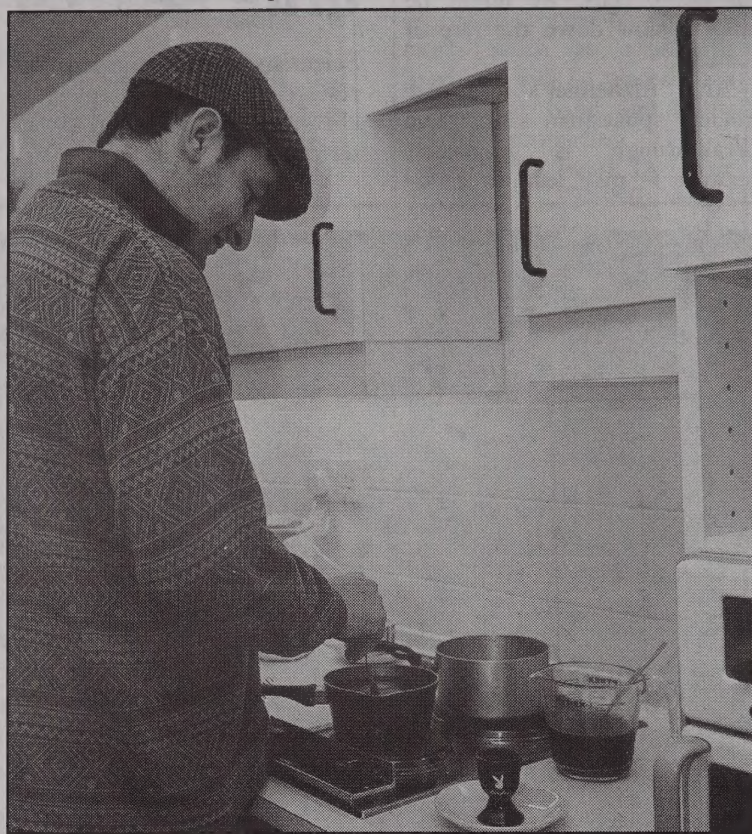
The Living Skills Unit at the Royal Hospital and Home in Putney, West London (RHHP), is the other new half-way house, providing help for 14 severely disabled people.

The unit, which has five double and four single furnished rooms with shared kitchens, bathrooms and toilets, was built by Habinteg Housing Association, but is owned by the RHHP, a non-profit-making voluntary hospital specialising in rehabilitation and continuing care.

Dr Keith Andrew, the hospital's director of medical and research services, said staff work on "transdisciplinary" lines: "Everyone gets involved in the total care of the patients.

well as doing their own jobs.

"We find the great advantage of this system is the flexibility it gives us. When a specialist is not available, a patient does not have to hang around waiting.



Dominique Macey re-learns cooking Milton Keynes style.

PAUL HOWARD

For example, specialists, such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists, help to bathe and cook for the residents, as

Someone else can do the job instead."

The unit takes in people with a wide range of disabili-

ties, including those with brain damage, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy, as well as disabled school leavers who need further retraining to help them adapt to life after school.

Unit Manager Mary Hynan said: "We look very carefully at what kind of setting our residents will be returning to and make sure that the programmes vary according to the needs of each patient.

"If someone needs to cook for themselves, then we will make sure they do a lot of cooking while at the unit. Others might be worried about using public transport again, so we help them get used to travelling on tubes or buses."

The Habinteg Housing Association has also built 28 houses for disabled people and non-disabled people (14 each) on land next to the hospital.

Most of the £1 million construction costs of both units have been paid for by Wandsworth borough council. The RHHP will contribute £100,000, pay for the Living Skills Unit's equipment and furniture, and cover the building's start-up costs.

RHHP, tel: 081-780 1883. Disabled Housing Trust, Ernest Kleinwort, Oakenfield, Burgess Hill RH15 8SJ.

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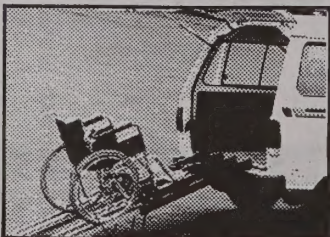
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Black carers isolated

Young black carers should have a "charter of rights" because they are not receiving the services they need.

That was the main message of a London conference on young carers in black and minority ethnic communities in November, organised by the Carers National Association, King's Fund carers' unit, and voluntary groups including ISIS (Black Mental Health Group Lewisham).

Joy Ann McCalman, author of *The Forgotten People*, a book about ethnic minority carers, said ethnic communities had a reputation for close family ties, but their carers needed as much help as anyone else.

Lydia Yee, an ethnic minorities development worker at the Kings Fund, said there had to be greater awareness of the needs of young black carers.

"There is no regular consultation with black organisations or involvement of individual carers in decision about the people they look after."

Professionals should work together to provide "more sensitive and flexible support" and adapt services to meet the needs of different communities.

A report on the conference will be published in February by the King's Fund.



Deer pals: Christopher Mead met Chrissie the reindeer at London Zoo when pupils from Richard Cloudesley School in London visited London Zoo for Christmas. JON WALTER

Civil rights bill is born

Labour's Shadow Minister for People with Disabilities, Alf Morris, has all-party backing for a Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill to make discrimination against disabled people illegal.

But because the parliamentary session is certain to be cut short by the General Election, the chances of the Bill becoming law are slight.

The Private Member's Bill, which was presented before the House of Commons on 4 December, would make it illegal to use disability as a reason for denying equal treatment in employment, housing, education and training, leisure activities, transport and access to buildings.

The Bill attracted sponsors from all parties, including former Liberal Democrat leader Sir David Steele and Conservative MP Sir Richard Body.

Mr Morris said: "Legislation is needed because disabled people in Britain face outrageous discrimination in every aspect of their lives."

Sir Brian Rix, Chairman of the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults (MENCAP) said: "Legislation to prevent discrimination is long overdue. The Government will surely now accept this Bill and we look forward to its early implementation."

Stroke charity goes it alone

Britain's first charity to deal solely with combating strokes was launched by Lord Whitelaw at St Thomas' hospital, London, in November.

The Stroke Association was formed when The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association handed its work in chest and heart conditions on to other national charities, such as the British Heart Foundation and the British Lung Foundation, enabling it to concentrate on strokes.

Lord Whitelaw, who had a slight stroke four years ago, said: "There is a desperate need to tackle this problem as

there is no other charity working in this field. It is the UK's third highest killer yet stroke is not foremost in the public eye."

He said the new association aims to cut down on the number of people who have a stroke by educating the public about "risk factors" such as smoking, alcohol, high blood pressure and obesity, and funding research.

It will also provide practical help for people who have had a stroke and their families, including stroke clubs where people can go for information and advice, speech and language therapy and welfare

grants to help pay for special clothing, respite care and equipment.

To stimulate new and wider research, the Association is funding the first Professorship in Stroke Medicine at Nottingham University.

The association's director general, Sir David Atkinson, said: "Despite the fact stroke kills 62,000 people a year, there is still widespread ignorance about stroke. This is something we are determined to change."

The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ. Tel: 071-490 7999.

More Euro arts cash?

Katherine Walsh reports from Luxembourg
Disability arts in Europe could be in for more money following a decision to split EUCREA (the European Committee on Creativity by and for Disabled People) from the ECS (Expert Team Creativity and Sport).

As well as arts, the ECS has to deal with sport and tourism. At the EUCREA meeting in Dublin this year, members complained that the ECS was overburdened with work and wasn't serving disability arts well. In particular, there was not enough information on creative activities in Europe, and not enough communication between the 12 member states and the main office in Brussels.

Now a EUCREA meeting in Luxembourg in October has voted to split from the ECS.

EUCREA's main functions are to award grants on the recommendation of each member's national committee (in this country the National Disability Arts Forum is EUCREA UK), and to hold an annual festival.

UKREA grants to British groups in 1992 are: £5,600 to rock group Heart 'n Soul for a European tour; £2,100 to

Artlink Edinburgh for a photographic project; and £6,300 to *Look*, an exhibition of work by young visually impaired people.

By going it alone, EUCREA's directors will have more freedom, particularly when it comes to fundraising and seeking sponsorship. This could mean more money for grants and even training grants for disabled people.

Since being set up in 1987, EUCREA has had three to four meetings a year. Its general assembly has been criticised for not being representative enough of member countries or democratic - delegates are appointed, not voted, on to the committee. Because it meets so seldom, the split could take over a year to achieve.

* A wheelchair ramp had to be installed in the House of Commons in November to enable disabled people to speak about problems they face trying to get into arts venues. Members of ADAPT (Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises) and Artsline told MPs at an all-party meeting that legislation is needed to ensure all new buildings are accessible.

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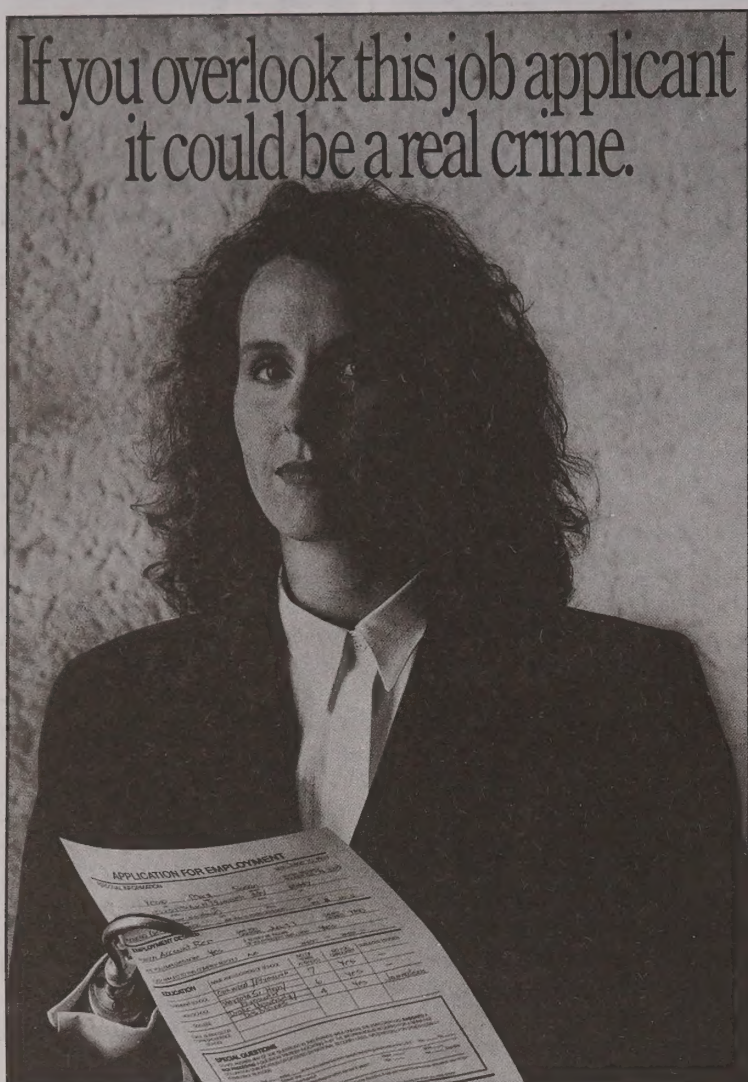
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Posters that speak volumes...



National Easter Seal Society of the USA. Agency: Campbell-Mithun-Esty Advertising, Minneapolis. Subject: raising awareness of Americans with Disabilities Act.

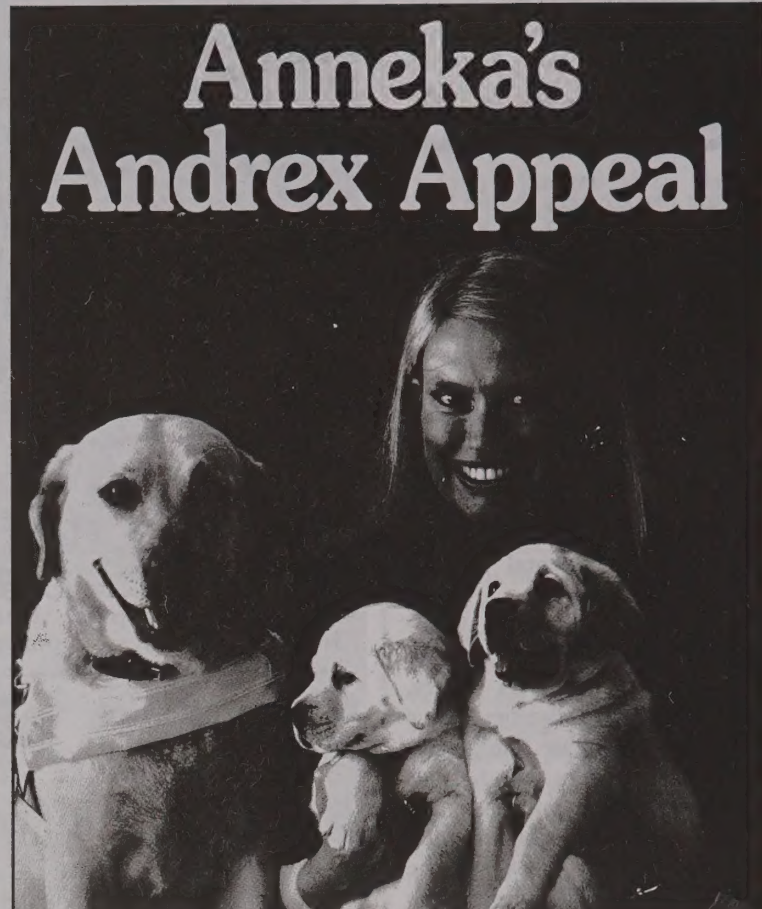
Appreciate them or abhor them, you can't ignore charity advertisements.

Concerned primarily with raising money, some try to raise awareness at the same time.

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This is YOUR chance to talk back. Please write to *DN*, address page 2, with your views on these posters or any others.

All letters will be passed on to the charities and the advertising agencies.



Help raise £200,000 for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association



Guide Dogs for the Blind Association starring tv presenter Anneka Rice. Agency: Kingsland Lloyd Peterson. Subject: raising money for the Association.

Alison Rowat reports

What the papers do and don't say

Newspapers are portraying disabled people in a negative light, ignoring their real concerns and contravening the industry's

code of practice, says a new report.

What the Papers Say and Don't Say about Disability, pub-

lished by The Spastics Society, says the choice of stories covered, and the language used, stereotypes disabled people.

And the "quality" press is just as prone to sensationalising as the tabloids.

Researchers Steve Smith and Antoinette Jordan looked at 335 stories with a disability interest during eight weeks in late 1990 and two weeks in February this year.

The "quality press" ran nearly four times as many disability stories as the tabloids.

The most popular topics were health, fundraising and charity, and personal interest stories.

The least popular were community care, carers, mobility, and council services.

But when these kind of issues were covered, it was generally done in a more balanced way.

The study concludes: "The newspapers' choice of news does not correspond with the agenda priorities and expectations of disabled people, carers and disability organisations."

"So-called medical 'problems' of disabled people completely overshadow the political/social issues that relate to disability."

It was also in medical stories that the worst cases of bad language were to be found and the most biased assumptions.

This is despite the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice which directs publications (it cannot force) to: "avoid prejudicial and perjorative reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or handicap".

Terms such as "suffer", "crippled", "victim" and "killer" appeared, and words like "deformity" and "defects" were used as "trigger mechanisms" for scaring the reader.

"This reinforces the image that disability is something to be frightened of or is a tragedy. Disabled people are excluded from mainstream society and are portrayed as outside the 'norm'.

The report tells journalists:

- * don't generalise (for example, use terms like "the disabled")
- * don't patronise (for example, make minor achievements out to be heroic acts)
- * and don't marginalise (for example, portray people as a medical problem and not as just another member of society).

To bring home what the others are missing, the report gives a taste of what *DN* covered in the same period: the breaking of the world disabled javelin record; a unique programme to train disabled managers; a fight between the National Union of

Railwaymen and British Rail after the former said disabled people were being treated as "second class citizens"; the first taxi-ramp for wheelchair users, invented by a cabbie; and council cuts to disability groups.

Disabled journalist and *DN* columnist Chris Davies believes two things need to be done: "Recruit more disabled journalists to specialise in areas such as independent living; disability politics; the disability political movement, etc. And give them the newspaper space specifically for this purpose".

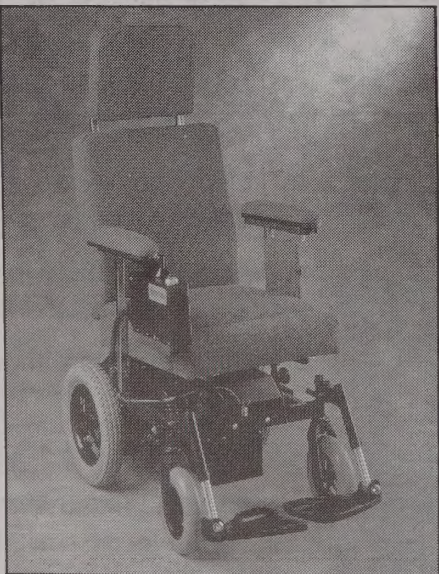
Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott said: "I have one plea to make to all those in the media. Will you please report on disability without stereotyping, without emotive overtones and without sensationalism. Give disabled people a fair deal".

Brian Lamb, head of campaigns at The Spastics Society, said: "We hope that this report will challenge misconceptions and change professional practice. Journalists should start from the assumption that it is not a person's disability which is the problem, but the way society - including the media - treats disabled people".

What the Papers Say and Don't Say about Disability, £2.95. Contact campaigns department, tel: 071-636 5020.

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... but what are they saying?



Kevin spends all day in the house doing nothing. Maybe he should become an M.P.

Until Kevin Powers was 19 he went to school for people with learning disabilities. He worked hard, he had fun and he had friends. Then school stopped and Kevin's days were left empty. That was 13 years ago. There are now, as there were then, education and training centres for adults where Kevin could have built on the progress he'd made at school. There are simply not enough of them. Which leaves Kevin, and over 200,000 other people like him, stuck at home where they can lose their self-respect and where their parents can easily become exhausted. MENCAP is campaigning for the provision of every adult with a learning disability an appropriate day care service. If you feel as strongly about this as we do, why don't you ask your M.P. what he's doing in the House. MENCAP

Mencap. Agency: Young and Rubicam. Subject: lack of provision for adults with learning difficulties. Asks you to write to your MP and query what he/she is doing about it.

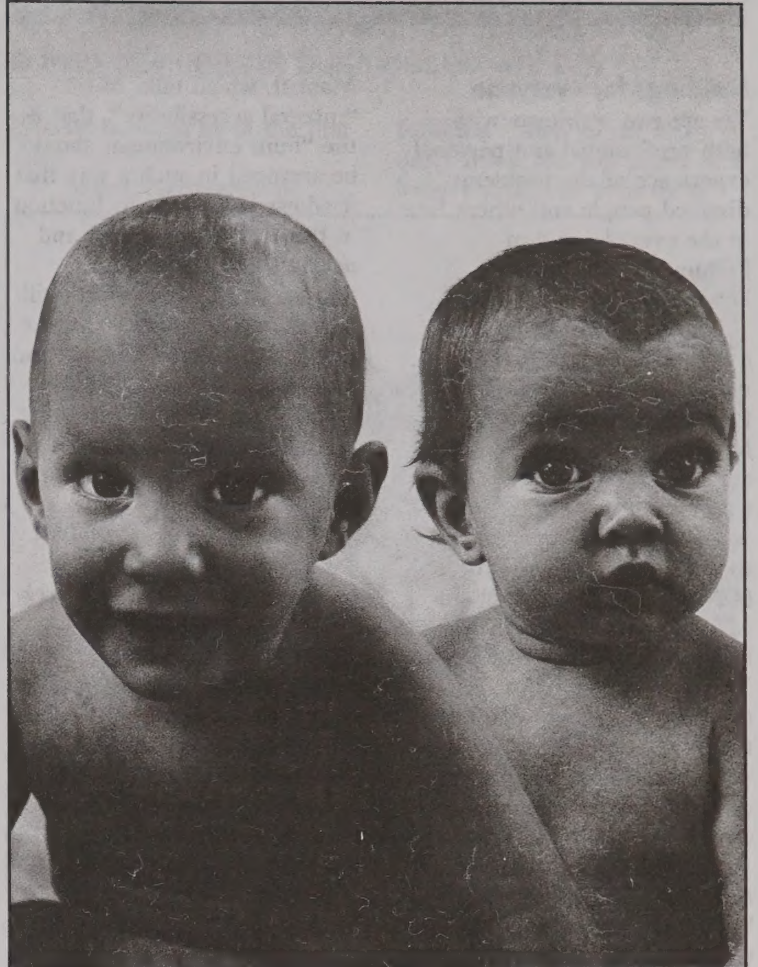
The products from our factory are accepted by many major companies. Unfortunately, our workers aren't

At first glance, there is little to distinguish our factory from any other production unit. There's the usual host of activities. The familiar dress of machinery and naturally, the odd release from the factory's usual rhythm. But look again more closely and you might notice something that's unique to our operation. Every member of our workforce is blind or visually impaired. If you find this fact hard to believe, that's precisely the reason we are taking this action. At Action for Blind People, we are constantly striving to break down people's preconceptions of what it means to be blind. If that sounds setting up an active factory, then so be it. Since 1951, Action for Blind People have been a factory which today is producing P.V.C. machinery for major companies like Rover, Ford and British Rail.



Action for Blind People. Agency: Still Price Court Twivy D'Souza: Lintas Limited. Subject: denial of job opportunities.

The ones that got away
Not everyone wanted to take part in our article. The British Diabetic Association said they didn't think most people with diabetes considered themselves disabled. Alan Ayres of BMP and DDB Needham, creators of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's "A hope in hell" ads, said: "If you're going to shoot me in the foot I don't want to give you the ammunition to do it."



One has cerebral palsy. The other has full human rights.

The Spastics Society. Agency: DMB&B. Subject: disabled people's rights, how they're denied, and how the Society can help enforce them given time, money and positive attitudes.

Maureen Gilbert reports from Dublin

Meet the challenge, make the change

"If the situation of disabled people was satisfactory in our society, and if disabled people had sufficient access to the camera and the microphone, and were truthfully portrayed on radio and television, we would not be having this conference today."

So said Vincent Finn, director general of RTE, the state broadcasting corporation, at "Challenging Images: perceptions of disability and the role of the media", co-hosted by NRB, the state-sponsored disability organisation in the Republic of Ireland, and RTE in December.

How to get from where we are now to a position of equality was the subject disabled people discussed with image-makers of all types - from print, radio, and tv journalists to advertising agencies, PR consultants and designers.

The tone was set by a session called "Speaking for Ourselves" in which six disabled people talked about what media images of disability meant to them. The momentum of this session was powerful, as each person spoke of the mythology surrounding their disability, the "helplessness", the "tragedy", the "pitifulness", etc.

Rita Lawlor, for example, challenged the image of people with learning disabilities as

childlike and irresponsible, and Donal Buckley talked of how fundraising images involving children with disabilities took away a piece of his dignity every time they were used. The atmosphere was of controlled and channelled anger.

Other sessions dealt with fundraising images of disability and the treatment of issues by tv, newspapers and photographers. Much interest was generated by the videos made by disabled people in partnership with Comic Relief in the UK.

The development of guidelines for journalists by the NUJ was welcomed, and journalists and disabled people came together to compile a stylebook of appropriate language and images of disability to be used by the media in Ireland. A watchdog to monitor the Irish media was also suggested. These initiatives will advance over the next few months.

Donal Toolan delivered an impassioned, powerful exploration of the position of disabled people in Ireland and the media. Mr Toolan is the first disabled person to be appointed by the President to the Council of State, the Irish equivalent of the Privy Council.

He took apart the symbolism of disability used by the media - "we are the epitome of a problem, never its solution" -

and called on disabled people to initiate positive action to end inaccurate and offensive treatment. This is essential if disabled people are to feel pride in who they are and to take their rightful place in Irish society.

Donal Toolan is reporter/presenter of *Not so Different*, a radio series on disability issues, and is also a partner in Celebrate Productions, which has been commissioned to make *On the Margins*, a series of six programmes on disability issues to be shown on Irish tv this year. Both present disability as a civil rights issue, as I explained in my paper, "Getting it Right".

There was a look at good practice in advertising - practically all of it, alas, from outside Ireland - and a video called *They're Big Things to Me*, made with people who have MS.

Appropriately for an event with a theme involving challenge and positive identification, the conference ended with a celebration - the first anniversary of Irish President Mary Robinson taking office. A civil rights lawyer by profession, her speech underlined her genuine and vigorous commitment to disability as a civil rights issue.

The conference achieved its aims of raising awareness and encouraging joint action for change between image-makers

and disabled people. As Donal Toolan ended his address, "from these roots will come real change for people with dis-

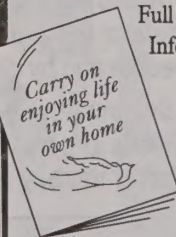
abilities in Ireland".

Proceedings to be published this year. Tel: 010-353-1-684181.

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Buildings for everyone

We are two architects with both professional and personal experience of the problems disabled people and others face in the everyday use of buildings and the spaces between them.

In fact, we spend much of our time making buildings work for disabled people - from adapting individual homes to advising other architects on major new commercial developments.

We were intrigued, therefore, to read the Profile (DN, November) of Richard MacCormac, who recently became president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). He carries with him the hopes of many architects because of his reputation for designing imaginative and sensitive buildings.

We echo his concern about throwing hardware at buildings, not because we think technology will in time solve the problems disabled people confront us with, but because we feel that what is needed is a new approach to designing buildings. This would take all users into account - which you might think was what architects were supposed to do anyway.

The approach should not be the current building regulations one, which still smacks of special arrangements for special people. It should be the one encapsulated in the Dutch-authored European

Manual, which talks of "integral accessibility", that is, the "built environment should be arranged in such a way that it allows everybody to function in the most independent and natural way possible".

Adopting this approach will demand considerable expertise in designing new buildings and resourcefulness and imagination in making existing buildings accessible plus, of course, real concern for people and buildings.

Over to you, Mr President. Stephen Thorpe RIBA Barry FitzGerald Dipl.Arch Threshold Architects 12a St Peter's Street Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1XB

Join the chair campaign

Shopping can be exhausting, not only for people who use a wheelchair, but for those who are elderly, pregnant or unfit, who look in vain for somewhere to sit. How I sympathise with Ann Darnbrough (DN, September).

It was with hidden disabilities especially in mind that I started "We care with a chair" as a one-woman campaign. It has reached Canada but, sadly, not everywhere in the UK.

Still, shops small and large are displaying the sticker (see right) on their windows or glass doors and the national campaign has now been taken up by Age Concern.

There are not enough volunteers to cover every area,

so please help. Contact Gay Usher at Age Concern (tel: 081-679 8000) for free stickers and explanatory leaflets for shopkeepers (and managers of public offices and exhibition halls). Help your shopkeepers help you! Margot Knowles Cheam, Surrey

Against animal research

I am replying to a letter from Andrew Blake (DN, November) which accepts the use of animals in medical research.

I am a member of an international organisation called Disabled Against Animal



Research and Exploitation (DAARE). We challenge the widely held belief that animal experiments are essential to medical progress.

Artificially induced diseases in animals have no relevance to man. Therefore results obtained from animal experiments can never be reliably applied to people with disabilities and chronic diseases.

The facts speak for themselves. Aspirin causes birth defects in mice and rats but not in humans. Penicillin kills guinea pigs. Digitalis, the

main remedy for heart patients, was delayed due to its adverse effects on dogs. Morphine sedates man but excites cats. Chloroform is so toxic to dogs that for many years this valuable anaesthetic was not used.

Despite animal experiments life expectancy has hardly changed since 1950, chronic sickness has increased, heart disease has reached epidemic proportions and cancer shows no sign of decline.

DAARE believes it is in the interest of all people with disabilities and chronic diseases to campaign for the total abolition of vivisection. We want a real chance of a cure - a chance that is denied us by stubborn reliance on animal experiments.

We support non-animal research methods such as human cell, tissue and organ cultures, computer models and clinical studies. We also campaign for funds to be redirected from animal experiments to projects that will directly benefit people with disabilities.

Sue Croshaw DAARE co-ordinator PO Box 8, Daventry Northants NN11 4RQ

Cynical Mr Turkey

I have been a reader of DN for some years and have always found it informative. Although I often find myself in disagreement with the opinions of your contributors, I can usually accept their viewpoint.

However, the article "Happy Xmas Mr Turkey" (DN, December) compels me to write.

Mr Sutherland's bitter and twisted view of life serves only

to portray the size of the grudge he bears against society. What I presume he believes to be wit is exposed as cynicism of the lowest order.

Moreover his comments on the birth of Christianity must surely be offensive in the extreme to Christians everywhere.

M P Wilson Crawley, West Sussex

Several readers have complained about Allan Sutherland's article. We are passing copies of your letters on to him - Editor.

We got there first

I was rather surprised to see the headline "Lib Dems blaze the trail in Bournemouth" (DN, October).

Norman Tebbit told me that his first pioneering attempt to broadcast with text was apparently blocked by the BBC as they had not had prior agreement with the other parties for such a new departure. I understand that it was broadcast in the end.

Jim Hattersley Vice-chairman Activities Committee Conservative Disability Group

The other man

I thought I ought to put the record straight as I am the other person referred to by Mike Davies (DN, November).

It is self evident that he took longer to write the piece than I did to read it and therefore it is he who is wasting time and I who am doing all the work. Incidentally, he is not me.

M N (Mike) Davies, C Psychol, AFBPsS Acting head of advisory assessment services The Spastics Society

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sic

Writer's block

Amazing that 20 years as official biographer of George Orwell hasn't made a man sensitive to discrimination and deprivation. Commenting on a rival biographer in The Guardian, Norman Sherry is quoted as saying: "I would have to be a person who is deaf, daft and dumb not to do better than Shelden."

A taste of their own medicine

As part of the "Quality Sampling Policy" of London's Southwark Council, senior social services staff are spending days delivering meals on wheels, and working as home helps or in a residential home for elderly people.

This job swapping seems a good idea. How about Health Secretary William Waldegrave languishing in a hospital out-patient's department or Transport Secretary Malcolm Rifkind borrowing a wheelchair and trying to travel by tube? Sweet dreams.



PATRICK BAGLEE

Having worked in local government in a variety of posts, none of them anything to do with access, I left to set up my own business as an access consultant in partnership with an able-bodied friend.

The idea came to us after I had asked for his assistance with a “dropped kerb survey” for the council’s planning department. He was horrified at the obstacles which those of us with a disability experience in our daily lives.

We spent some time researching the possibilities for a business and met with nothing but enthusiasm from the planning officers, developers and architects we talked to. While doing this, we were asked to become the disabled access consultants to a £250 million city centre development project. This gave us the impetus to get going, and the promise of finance enabled us to take the plunge. (When it comes to start up costs, you have to consider the ongoing bills for

salary, rent, expenses and machinery, which can amount to around £6-7,000).

There is no such thing as an average day. Sometimes we are out examining buildings whose owners are looking at ways of improving access. Another time we might be discussing with an architect the best way to design with access in mind, or talking to the staff of an arts organisation about what they can do to encourage disabled people to take part.

You also need to spend time in the office, producing reports or chasing contracts. For many businesses, spending money to make their premises accessible

Converting knowledge into cash

In the first of a new *DN* series on careers, access consultant Anne Royston describes what it takes to turn your experience as a disabled person into advice that businesses will pay for

is seen as an option rather than an investment. We have to plug the fact that accessibility doesn’t only benefit disabled people but society as a whole, parents with buggies being a prime example.

Life as an access consultant is both challenging and fulfilling. It is not an easy area to work in, as you have to overcome your own pet likes and dislikes so that the advice given is unbiased and of assistance to the greatest number and range of people.

In putting together the case for access, one phrase we like is “best compromise”.

“What do you say to a potential client who asks you why your advice is better than that of Fred Bloggs, their disabled friend?”

Obviously we want to see equal access for all, but you have to be realistic about what people can afford. For example, we wouldn’t suggest that the corner shop should consider major structural changes, or that a library

As a wheelchair user, this particular job would be impossible for me without my able-bodied colleague – obviously, if a place wants to become accessible then it currently is not so! The best access consultants, therefore, always come in pairs. Partnership also means you get the best of two brains, two life experiences, and two perspectives, which produces innovative and well thought-out results.

It’s not all fun and games, though. Anyone considering a career in access consultancy should consider:

- * where are you going to work? There are very few groups such as Access Really Makes Sense & Co (they can probably be counted on one hand) and jobs are consequently hard to come by. Freelance work is an option, but it takes a huge amount of commitment to “go it alone”.
- What do you say to a potential client who asks why your advice is better than that of Fred Bloggs, their disabled friend? If you yourself are disabled, how are you going to get about to survey inaccessible premises? With a partner? Who and how are you going to recruit? The problems are myriad. There were a good many factors at work which were outside my control when my business started, and you could say I was very lucky even to get going.
- * where are you going to learn the business? Again, because experience is hard to come by, it would be difficult to make yourself the “irresistible choice” should anyone be recruiting. The obvious route is through council posts, for example, as an occupational therapist or access officer. But to qualify for these usually requires a related degree or previous experience.
- * if it doesn’t work out, where will you go next? This job may give a little experience in a lot of areas but, career-wise, consultancy in one area only qualifies you for further consultancy in that area and little else. You must have commitment – you cannot simply “try it for a while”.
- * are you prepared to be a perfectionist? Whilst ideal solutions may not be possible in every situation, what is suggested to the client must be of the highest standard. Reports need to be clear, concise, error-free and professionally presented.
- * lastly, despite the equation of “consultant” with “high earnings” there may be long months of poverty between jobs (we earned around

£20,000 between us in the first year).

If, having considered all fulfilling – then go for it! I don’t think you will regret it. I believe totally in what we’re



Anne Royston and partner Mike Shepherd (left) with architect Clive Crawford discussing the £250m development around the Alhambra in Bradford.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST

this, you still feel that this is an area where you can make a valuable contribution to society and at the same time work at something which you find doing and have never regretted taking the plunge.

Access Really Makes Sense and Co, tel: (0274) 521151.

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Anne Royston

JOB: Senior Manager, Access Really Makes Sense & Co.

QUALIFICATIONS: Three GCE’s; advanced driving licence; RSA typewriting Stage I; MENSA member; 25 years working for Bradford Council in computer programming, telephone reception, data control, radio-paging and account handling. Formal qualifications mean little – a good grasp of English and typing skills do not go amiss, but far more important is the intelligence factor.

SKILLS: You need to handle many different matters well, and have basic business administration skills. An awareness of the needs of a variety of disabled people is necessary, as well as the ability to think laterally around problems. The ability to communicate is vital. This is a sales job where the client needs to be convinced that the investment of their money is going to be worthwhile. Also useful are a sense of humour, determination, patience and a belief in what you are doing.

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DN1/92

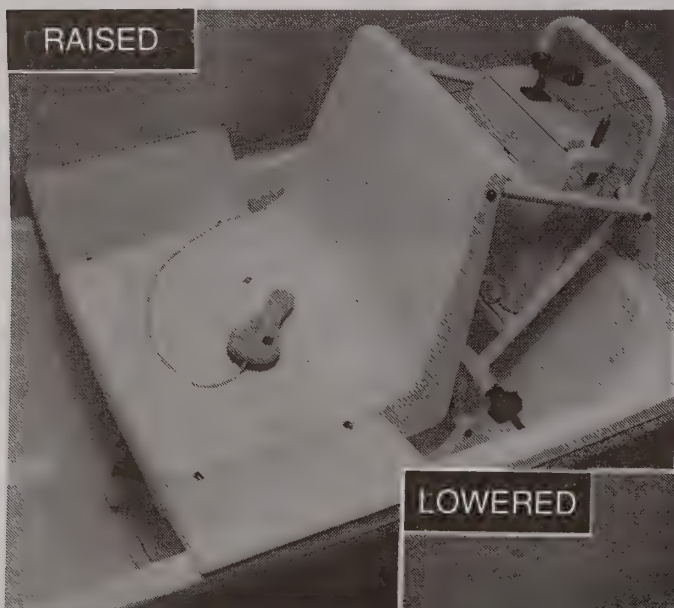
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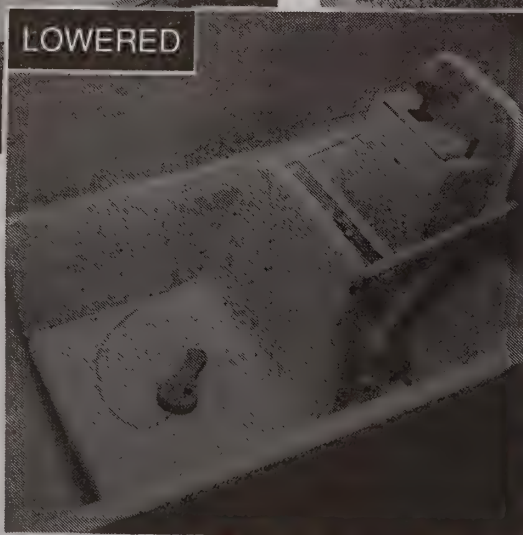
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DN 192



PATRICK BAGLEE

DN Holiday Special 1992 presents:

p13 Weak links in the chain - tour agents and operators take note
p14 Holiday insurance
p14 Family centre in the sun
p15 On my own to Germany
p15 Enabling in the USA
p16-17 What, where, how?

There is the well-known story of the Dutch boy who plugged a hole in a dyke, so saving his village from flooding. And here I was, sitting in a luxury coach, looking down at a Dutch "ring canal" on one side, and the low lying "polders" on the other, the fields and houses clearly below the water level.

We were on our way back to



Christopher Goodall sees Amsterdam in the Spring.

Amsterdam after a tour of the bulb fields: mile after mile of yellows, pinks, whites and a red so rich and bright it made you blink, stretching as far as we could see. And the blues: I'd known about the tulips, of course, but I hadn't realised there were enormous fields of hyacinths. Imagine the scent in the warm spring air!

The guide told us about the dykes and windmills, and how the polders were constructed, step by step, out of land which had originally been covered by the sea. We could only marvel at the ingenuity and determination of the Dutch.

Now the Dutch have another reputation, and that is concern for minority groups. But this was my second visit to Holland, and already I had

Never take yes for an answer

Weak links in the access chain can mar the best of holidays, says Christopher Goodall

realised that disabled people were an invisible minority, a group whose special needs were just not addressed.

I come from York, whose council I have often criticised for its poor provision for, in particular, people using wheelchairs. But in York there are dropped kerbs, tactile paving at crossings and ramps to the main entrance of our art gallery.

In Amsterdam I saw about three dropped kerbs. There was no tactile paving, or rather, every bit of pavement was tactile - rough and uncomfortable. Bicycles piled in heaps blocked the pavements, and sometimes street signs were clustered like ninepins completely obstructing the pavement and forcing you onto the road.

We soon learned to stick to the special cycleways which, apart from the frequent danger of cyclists travelling at the speed of sound, were at least comparatively smooth.

The famous Rijksmuseum with its wonderful collection of Rembrandts, is approached, if you are not in a wheelchair, by impressive flights of steps.

We asked a guard at the foot of the steps how wheelchair users gain admission and he radioed for another guard. A huge metal shutter at the goods entrance rose to reveal a dim, narrow corridor twisting through piles of boxes and machinery, and we were escorted through all this to the public part of the galleries.

The modern Van Gogh museum had its main entrance at the top of an even higher flight of steps than at the Rijksmuseum but, never mind, here too you can use the goods entrance.

Everyone was helpful. None of the officials made me feel I was a nuisance. But in nearly every public building I entered through the goods entrance, a human parcel on wheels.

It's good that Dutch ingenuity (backed up with unfailing good humour) has

found ways of getting disabled people into these old buildings, though there's no excuse at the Van Gogh. But it is the

chair. What did they imagine happened to my disability once I left the ship?

When the coach pulled up



Navigating picturesque canals is a lot easier than exploring Amsterdam in a wheelchair.

NETHERLANDS BOARD OF TOURISM

repetition that galls, every time using a different door, every time requiring someone to put themselves out, every time handing over that bit more of my cherished independence.

All through my holiday, there were weak links in the chain.

The facilities on North Sea Ferries were excellent - a special cabin for me and my helper, lifts to all the floors, and helpful staff.

Then, abruptly, everything fell apart. Outside the ferry terminal was a coach, with about five steep steps.

I had booked the holiday personally, sitting there in my wheelchair, asking for an accessible cabin, asking for a hotel which could take my

at Rotterdam station, there were those steep steps to descend, before a long and increasingly bad-tempered hunt for an unlabelled lift (which was, would you believe

it, in the goods area).

At Amsterdam central station the young woman in the information office didn't know where the disabled toilet was, or even if there was one.

Businesses like North Sea Ferries do their best to make travel easier for the disabled person, but their concern, and probably their control, is strictly limited.

Unless travel agents and tour operators are prepared to ensure that every link is secure, then independent travel for a disabled person will be near impossible.

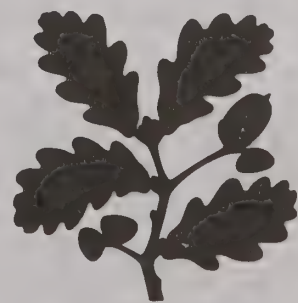
I haven't identified the weakest link of all: the assumption that someone travelling in a wheelchair will be accompanied.

In my case, my helper is a very good friend, willing to spend much of his holiday ensuring that I get a holiday as well. Other disabled people rely on relatives.

I'm not suggesting that the State provides a district nurse or a home help to take me on a holiday. But it certainly saves a lot of money by relying on voluntary help.

And if those voluntary helpers were to withdraw their support - if that Dutch boy had removed his finger - I wonder how much chaos, misery and neglect would ensue.

North Sea Ferries package tours, eg Hull to Rotterdam, tel: (0482) 77177.



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1992 is National Trust Landscape Year. Many of the Trust's landscape parks and countryside sites have excellent access for wheelchair users, and at some, accessibility is further improved by the provision of volunteer-driven buggies, battery-powered self-drive cars, or three-wheeler scooters. These include landscapes such as Ashridge in Hertfordshire and Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire.

There is no charge for the use of these vehicles, which give independence and enjoyment to many people who can then tour a Trust property beside their companions!

There is a list of properties offering these vehicles and further details are given in a free annual 42 page booklet of information for visitors with disabilities, sponsored by Fisons plc. Please send a stamped self-addressed adhesive

**Valerie Wenham,
Dept DN, The National Trust,
36 Queen Anne's Gate,
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Few of us plan our holiday expecting that something will happen to spoil it. But if misfortune strikes, it is very reassuring to know you are adequately and suitably insured, particularly if you are over 60, disabled or have special needs.

Here are some do's and don'ts about taking out holiday insurance and a comparison of three policies designed for disabled people.

Choose your tour operator with care

Most people choose a package holiday because travel and accommodation are included in a single price. So the tour operator's policy is probably the one you will see first.

Find out whether they operate a separate welfare section (like Thomson) or some similar service, which points to them being aware of a disabled person's needs.

Even if the insurance policy looks good, remember it is the tour operator's representative who will probably be responsible for arranging and co-ordinating any medical or other services. Does the tour operator really care?

Read the policy thoroughly

Whether you opt for the tour operator's policy or a rival one offered by your travel agent

Insurance is the best policy

Ron Wheal, independent travel consultant, looks at what's on offer and gives some practical advice

(who may have his own arrangement with an insurance broker and thereby earn more commission), check carefully that there is nothing in the wording which might prevent the cover applying to you. If there is an exclusion clause which does apply to you, remember the policy will give you no cover at all.

Few policies now exclude people with pre-existing medical conditions, although they will all carry some restrictions, hence the need for care. If you think there is a restriction which might apply to you, get written clarification before you book - or find another insurer.

Usually, if you do not have very particular special needs, it is perfectly safe to accept the cover which is recommended.

Be honest about yourself

Anyone seeking insurance cover is legally obliged to disclose any information which may be relevant to the risks for which insurance is being sought. Even if there are no exclusion clauses, any special circumstances that might affect the validity of the insurance must always be declared.

Insurance companies do not want disputes over claims and these can be avoided if everyone is frank beforehand.

Your insurer must always be told of any condition which might need medical treatment

while you are abroad.If you are going outside the European Community where reciprocal health agreements don't apply, be sure to have enough cover. Incidentally, it is extremely unwise to travel abroad against the advice of your doctor because you will almost certainly invalidate any cover you have bought.

Consider specialist cover

Elderly people or those with severe disabilities may find they can get more appropriate cover from an insurance company with special policies.

Premiums may be higher, but you can get added protection for wheelchairs, artificial limbs and emergency medical treatment, eg for people with asthma. (Cover for an able-bodied companion is generally reduced.)

I have looked at three travel insurance policies for disabled people: a "special needs" policy, which includes people over 65, from the Holiday Care Service, a charity, arranged with Home & Overseas Insurance; the "Abilities" policy for people with serious physical, medical or mental disabilities from Continental Assurance (CAL); and the "Handicare" policy for physically or mentally disabled people and people over 65 (for whom premium rates are higher) from Travel Marrs' (see right).

	Travel Marrs'	Abilities	Holiday Care Service
	£	£	£
Medical expenses	1,000,000	1,000,000	Unlimited
Additional hospital benefit	200	500	500
Cancellation charges	1,000	2,000	2,000
Travel delay	60	2,000	60
Missed departure	-	500	500
Personal property	1,000	1,000	1,000
Personal accident	5,000	20,000	15,000
Personal liability	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Wheelchair	1,000	1,000	by request
Curtailment	1,000	2,000	2,000
Personal money	250	250	200

Sample Premiums *

10 days in Europe	22	15	16.10
17 days in USA/Canada	52	45	47

* Premiums will vary according to the length of your stay and the part of the world visited, and each company's price bandings for area and duration are different. These prices are indications only. With Travel Marrs' and Abilities, able bodied people accompanying a disabled person qualify for a reduced premium.

In the Holiday Care Service policy there is provision for cancellation-only cover for a discounted premium.This may sound attractive, but it is not a good idea and would almost certainly fail to meet the requirements of most tour operators' booking conditions, which specify that adequate and full travel insurance must be taken out by everyone booking a holiday.

Several insurance companies can arrange tailor-made disability policies at individual

prices. Of these I mention two. M J Fish has considerable experience over a wide range of disabilities, while Tyser (UK) specialises in people who have epilepsy.

M J Fish & Co Ltd, tel: (0772) 455111. Tyser (UK) Ltd, tel: (0268) 284361. Holiday Care Service, tel: (0293) 774535. Continental Assurance Co Ltd, tel: 071 621 0502/1774. Travel Marrs', A M Marrs (PA) Ltd, tel: 081-446 9620.

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Enabling in the USA

I met Ann totally by chance, when she was searching for a companion on her holiday of a lifetime to New England, USA. Being a wheelchair user, she had thought of a coach tour, but as we poured over brochures it became clear that it wouldn't suit my 18-month-old daughter, Ferdia, and could be uncomfortable for Ann. So we chose a hire-car tour, and flew with British Airways - all organised efficiently by Thomas Cook.

Our holiday really began when we left busy, expensive Boston to head north.

Salem's Witch Museum was fascinating, though the wheelchair access ramp was extremely steep. Ann and I

anticipated a record-breaking roll down it after the show, but a muscular attendant manoeuvred the chair safely.

Our days in Portland gave us a chance to settle into a comfortable daily routine and chat about shared interests - luckily we had some.

Determined that the wheelchair would not prevent us from doing anything, we took a cruise round the islands one evening and ate on a moored-boat restaurant.

Driving west along the Kankamagus Highway we came to Lincoln and its spectacular surroundings. One day, three porters lifted Ann and her chair onto an ancient train from which we viewed

On my own to Germany

"It can be done" - if you research and plan carefully, says Nick Atkinson

I am 20, into my second year at university and confined to a wheelchair.

It's no joke getting about in Hull or Cambridge. Public transport is all but a no-go area and then there are crossings without dropped kerbs and steps into shops.

With so many limitations on my mobility here, the last thing you would expect me to do is go abroad. But last summer I went to Germany on my own to stay with a friend. I was looking not for more problems but for more out of life.

Planning was crucial. A set of stairs in the wrong place and even the best laid plan could be scuppered. I started with travel arrangements.

I could go to Germany by coach and ferry or, more expensively, fly. In the end I chose the plane, which for me was a "tried and tested" option - last Easter I flew to Paris without a hitch. I found a cheap flight.

My advice about travelling by air or sea came from *Door to Door*, a Department of Transport guide for people with disabilities, which also lists contacts. I flew from Manchester, the nearest airport offering a service to Frankfurt.

Planes are reluctant to take you if you cannot use a toilet on your own once the door has been opened and if you cannot bend your legs. Fortunately I could manage all right, and it helped that my electric wheelchair was collapsible and runs on wet-cell batteries, not acid ones, which airlines class as hazardous (so check first).

Bearing in mind that my family would not be allowed beyond passport control, I arranged with British Airways to meet a porter at the check-in desk - someone had to carry the bags!

The porter took me through passport control to the departure lounge. Ten minutes before the other passengers were due to board I was taken out to the plane.

A hydraulic platform lifted me from the tarmac up to the cabin door and then two porters transferred me to a narrow wheelchair in which they took me to my seat.

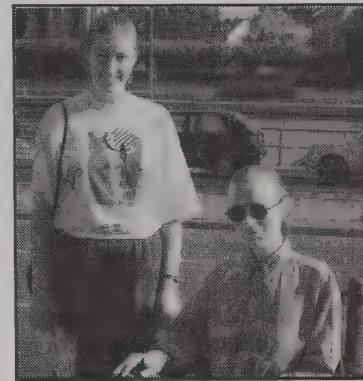
During the flight the crew were very helpful, getting books out of my bag in the locker above my seat, offering help with food, ensuring I was comfortable.

At Frankfurt there were similar arrangements to get me off the plane.

Now I was in uncharted territory, destined for Mainz,

some 40 miles away. At this point in my planning I had started telephoning in earnest.

John Stanford, RADAR's holiday officer, sent me general information about Germany contained in their access guides, and through him I found the Ibis Hotel in Mainz, centrally situated and



Frankfurt day-trippers: Nick Atkinson and Alison Bell.

fully accessible - except for the high loo seat - not uncommon. He also told me about the Holiday Care Service and Tripscope.

The Holiday Care Service sent information including a register of accessible accommodation in Germany.

Jim Bennett at Tripscope was friendly and helpful, giving me information and contacts to sort out specific problems, such as whether I could take a train from Frankfurt airport to Mainz, which I could. I found all main stations were fully accessible and after you have bought your ticket you just ask for help on to the train, and staff will phone through



to your destination so help is ready there too.

Sometimes, as with the German Railways Board, it was difficult getting information. I found I had to be politely assertive and not allow myself to be fobbed off, otherwise I was passed from one department to another.

Whenever I needed help I made a point of thanking people in German, which I think they appreciated. It helped to have learnt a few words, too, for ordering a taxi and explaining it would have to be an estate car, or to tell someone about my disability if I was ill. I have since heard of *The Disabled Traveller's Phrasebook*, which would have been a help.

The highlights of the holiday were a boat trip down the Rhine, a visit to Wiesbaden for the wine festival, a day out in Frankfurt (excellent access and information, including a special map) and Mainz itself, with gorgeous old buildings, a fabulous cathedral and Gutenberg bibles. Everywhere people were quick to help, not patronising.

My experience has convinced me that disabled people can visit other countries alone. In fact, I had more freedom of mobility in Germany than I do at home.

For services and guides mentioned here, see pages 16-17.



hedral from an unusual angle.



Grayson writes: Mar y Sol in the Canary Islands (above) is the only one we have ever been to which lived completely up to its name - 100 degrees in August when we were there. It was an ideal holiday complex for my two sons. My older son is grown up and uses a wheelchair. There are three beautiful swimming pools. One, like a giant jacuzzi, is perfect. The apartments are clean and beautiful, and the facilities excellent. My carer, I found life very relaxing. There is a minibuss service, or friendly taxis to take you to Los Cristianos down the hill. Just ask for your handbag - mine was grabbed as I walked into town! Audio and video are available from UK agents Sue Abbott in Middlesbrough, tel: 0161 275 5718 or Lynne Diane James in Ellesmere Port, tel: 051-339 5316.



and topiary giraffe at Newport.

by Fiona Earle, with thanks to Ann Bartlett

soaring mountains and tumbling rivers, then spotted a blue heron and a beaver's dam.

I found it difficult pushing Ann's chair and carrying Ferdia in a back-pack on the gravelled slopes of a Raptor (birds of prey) Centre. The keepers considerably brought some hawks and owls from their cages for us to see.

In Springfield, we called at a vineyard to sample wine and a school Hallowe'en fair. A shopping mall showed us how aware people are of wheelchair access: doors were held open and queues made space for us.

Costumed guides met us at Sturbridge, explaining about this totally operational 18th Century settlement. As usual, Ann was offered a special rate to compensate for the exhibits

she would not see properly.

In Newport, the glorious homes of Vanderbilts and Kennedys were surpassed by the raging waves of the Atlantic along Ocean Drive. The motel at Hyannis was the most comfortable and well-positioned of them all.

We joined a boat trip to spot whales in Cape Cod. A humpback whale and her calf passed underneath us and surfaced by Ann's window!

In our 14-day trip, we forged a strong friendship and enjoyed the comfort and hospitality of an area which really accommodates the needs of disabled people. All in all our message is - go for it. With planning and a sense of adventure, you too could have a whale of a time!

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What? When? Where? How? DN points you in the right direction



Voluntary organisations

Many groups have adapted holiday accommodation. Here is a selection.

Arthritis Care, 5 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7ER, tel: 071-235 0902. Five holiday centres in the UK, also self-catering holiday units at 12 sites. Only available to members (after six months).
Bagaduish Centre, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1QU, tel: (0479) 861285. Respite care activity holidays for unaccompanied disabled people. 24-hour care provided. Also caters for group travel.
BREAK, 20 Hooks Hill Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8NL, tel: (0263) 823170. Holidays and respite care for young disabled people in two centres in Norfolk.
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, Frankland Moore House, 185/7 High Road, Chadwell



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BYRN MEIRION GUEST HOUSE, Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, Gwynedd, LL74 8SR. Tel: 0248 853118



Family run guest house, situated on a superb coastal site with panoramic views. Has been adapted along with the landscaped gardens to cater for wheelchair user. TV lounge, dining room and en-suite bedrooms on the ground floor. Two new additional specialised units with electric beds and hoists. Special diets catered for. Various aids available on request. Open all year. Ample car parking.
 There is always a warm welcome at Bryn Meirion.



Heath, Essex RM6 6NA, tel: 081-590 1124. Holiday homes in Blackpool and Perthshire for disabled ex-servicemen - their wives and widows.

Calvert Trust Kielder, Kielder Water, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 1BS, tel: (0434) 250232. Outdoor pursuits centre for people with disabilities.

Churchtown Farm Outdoor Education Centre, Lanlivery, Bodmin, Cornwall, tel: (0208) 872148. Run by The Spastics Society. Adventure and environment courses for people of all ages and disabilities.

Disabled Christians Fellowship, 50 Clare Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1PJ, tel: (0272) 616141. Organises holidays at centres in the UK.

The Disaway Trust, 2 Charles Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3BD, tel: 081-543 3431. Organises holidays and provides helpers.

John Grooms Association for Disabled People, 10 Gloucester Drive, London N4 2LP, tel: 081-802 7272.

Wheelchair-friendly holiday accommodation in three hotels and a number of self-catering flats, bungalows and caravans. The Tara Hotel in London has reduced-rate rooms for members of the visitor's club.

Jubilee Sailing Trust, Test Road, Eastern Docks, Southampton SO1 1GG, tel: (0703) 631388. Organises

sailing voyages for mixed ability crews.
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation runs Park House,

667 9443. Organises holidays in the UK and abroad. Send £1 (p&p) for 1992 brochure.
Red Cross House,



Expand your horizons: Kate Nevile joined an Operation Raleigh expedition in Zimbabwe

Sandringham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE35 6EH, tel: (0485) 543000, a country house hotel designed for disabled people.

The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS, tel: 071-222 9251. Contact Valerie Wenham.

Publishes a free guide, *Information for Visitors with Disabilities 1992*, detailing access to Trust properties. Has self-drive and volunteer driven vehicles at a number of properties. Also runs an adventure centre in South Wales and has adapted holiday cottages for rent throughout the country.

Operation Raleigh, Alpha Place, Flood Street, London SW3 5SZ, tel: 071-351 7541. Runs adventure, conservation and community projects worldwide for young people.
PHAB, 12-14 London Road, Croydon CRO 2TA, tel: 081-

Costa Blanca - Spain

Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 25133.

HERNE BAY, KENT. Three self-catering mobile homes, purpose built for wheelchair users, situated in beautiful grounds of Strode Park. For brochure contact: Mrs G Drummond, Strode Park Foundation, Heme, Heme Bay, Kent CT6 7NE (0227) 373292.

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try:
ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms - licensed bars - free use of wheelchairs - mini-bus.
 Tel: (050841) 324
 or write to: The Manager
 Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel
 Ashwellthorpe
 Norwich NR16 1EX

Mackintosh Road, Raigmore, Inverness IV2 3TX, tel: (0463) 234939. Purpose-built, offering leisure and respite holidays for people with a wide range of disabilities.

RNIB activity holidays. Contact Palm Court Hotel, Burlington Place, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4AR, tel: (0323) 25811.

Scout Holiday Homes Trust, Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JS, tel: 071-584 7030. Six-berth caravans and chalets for any family with a disabled member. 11 locations.

Spinal Injuries Association, Newpoint House, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DF, tel: 081-444 2121. Owns two accessible narrow boats, also adapted caravans in England and France. Gives information on accessible holiday accommodation.

Sportstart Holidays, Ludwig Guttman Sports Centre, Harvey Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 8PP, tel: (0296) 84848. Runs four-day holidays for disabled people to try different sports.
Stackpole Centre, Home Farm, Stackpole, Pembroke, Dyfed SA71 5DQ, tel: (0646)

ORLANDO, FLORIDA holiday of a lifetime for the independent disabled traveller. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - luxury adapted bungalow - sleeps 6. Over-looking golf course. 10 mins airport, 20 mins to Disney etc. Paraplegic owner Sue Fisher. For availability: 5 Park Lane, Broughton Park, Salford M7 0LB or tel: 061-792 3029.

YOUNG DISABLED ON HOLIDAY

(reg. charity no. 200644)
 Y.D.H. organises holidays in the UK and abroad for young physically disabled people.
 * Are you 18-30?
 * Fancy a holiday with a difference?
 * Interested?
 For more information please contact:
 Melanie Brand, 73 Broad Street Green Rd, Great Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8NY.

Brand new spacious caravan owned by the Felixstowe Society for the Handicapped (affiliated to the Spastics Society) on site 400 yards from Felixstowe sea front and promenade. Fully adapted for wheelchair users. Maximum capacity 6 adults with 1 child. Prices are £90 per week in July and August and £80 per week for the rest of the season.
 For details please contact Mr N. M. Stewart, 11 Ash Ground Close, Trimley St. Martin, Ipswich, IP10 0YA. Tel: (0394) 283738.

661425, a self-catering centre in Pembrokeshire for disabled people, offers swimming and outdoor activities.

Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594. Holidays for disabled and severely disabled people. Five centres in the UK. Small group special interest fortnights and overseas trips. Helpers provided.

Companies

Accessible Travels, 13 St Paul's Square, Birmingham B3 1RB, tel: 021-233 0055. Offers packages to hotels in Spain.
Assistance Travel Service, 9 River View Terrace, Purfleet, Essex RM16 1QT, tel: (0708) 863198. Offers package and tailor made holidays worldwide. New this year: coach holidays in the UK and self-drive special vehicle hire in the USA.

Can Be Done, 7-11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP, tel: 081-907 2400. Arranges touring



Fishing on a PHAB holiday

holidays in adapted coaches in Britain. Can also arrange tailor-make holidays.

Carefree Holidays, 64 Florence Road, Northampton NN1 4NA, tel: (0604) 34301. Holidays for retired and people with special needs in hotels and holiday centres.
Chalfont Line, 4 Medway Parade, Perivale, Middlesex UB6 8HA, tel: 081-997 3799. Specialised coaches and tour managers provided for holidays.
Charity Link Holiday

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstable, North Devon EX32 7PT
Telephone: 0598 710241
 Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available. Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.
 Please contact: Valerie Boddington



Winged Fellowship

HOLIDAYS AND RESPITE CARE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Angel House
 20-32 Pentonville Road
 London N1 9XD
 Telephone 071-833 2594

What? When? Where? How? DN points you in the right direc-

More companies

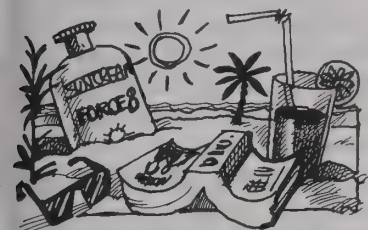
Service, Retail Travel Ltd, PO Box 44, Peterborough PE1 1JF, tel: (0733) 555225.

Provides a telephone booking service and advises families with a disabled member.

Custom Leisure, 27 Meridians, Stour Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1RA, tel: (0202) 481003.

Package holidays for people with special needs.

Definitely Go Travel, 117-8 Western Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1DB, tel: (0273) 220772. Arranges holidays for



deaf or hard of hearing people.

English Country Cottages, Grove Farm Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB, tel: (0328) 851155. Brochure grades properties into three "access" bands.

French Adventures, Holidays for Special People, 22

Whitehall Street, Shrewsbury SY2 5AD, tel: (0743) 367305.

Camping and chalet breaks for disabled people and families.

Special Tour Services, 38 Church Street, Tollesbury, Essex CM2 7JY, tel: (0621) 868621.

Plans itineraries for disabled people, particularly in California and Florida.

Sunstar Travel Worldwide, Unit 13, Gateway Estate, Hythe Road, London NW10 6RJ, tel: 081-969 9855.

Tours on luxury accessible coaches.

Robert Goodall Travel, 76 Beaconfield Road, Plymouth PL2 3TG, tel: (0752) 777888.

A family travel agent which offers free vehicle conveyance on certain ferry routes to registered disabled people.

Thomson Holidays, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7SD, tel: 071-387 9321.

Have a special client welfare department to deal with individual queries.

Threshold Travel, 80 Newry Street, Banbridge, Co. Down,

Norfolk/Suffolk borders.

Trio of beautiful barn conversions each sleeping 6. Adapted in line with Holiday Care Service spec. Use of luxury indoor heated swimming pool. Tel: 0508 28786 for brochure.

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT. Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King 0305 821961. Or write to 55 Shepherds Croft, Portland, Dorset DT5 1DJ.

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS

RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS, OFFERS RESPITE/HOLIDAY BREAKS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. COMFORTABLE SINGLE BEDROOMS. FRIENDLY STAFF PROVIDING 24 HOUR CARE. ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT TO EXPLORE TOURIST TRAILS AND ENJOY MANY LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. FOR BROCHURE AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, THE PRINCIPAL, RED CROSS HOUSE, MACKINTOSH ROAD, RAIGMORE, INVERNESS IV2 3TX. TELEPHONE (0463) 234939.

BT32 3HA, tel (08206) 62954.

Custom-made holidays.

Fly/drive in the USA or sail in an accessible cruiser off Ireland.

Guides and information

AA Travel, Fanum House, Basingstoke RG21 2EA, freefone (0800) 262050.

Produces a guide for disabled travellers. (See review page 18.)

The Access Holiday Guide, Access Publishing, 7

Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, South Devon TQ8 8LY.

Information on hotels, farms, boats and activity centres in Britain. £2.45 (inc p&p).

Age Concern England, Dept L55, Astral House, 1268

London Road, London SW16 4ER, tel: 081-679 8000.

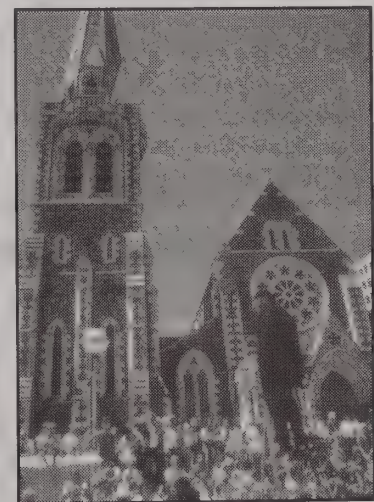
Two books: *Life in the Sun, a Guide to Long-Stay Holidays* and

Living Abroad in Retirement and *Out and About* - a travel

and transport guide for the UK. Both £6.95 from WH

Smith, good bookshops or Age Concern. Has just joined forces

with WM Holidays to offer holidays in the UK and



The Wizard speaks: a local character at Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand (see *Guides and information*).

abroad. Contact Fiona Deyes at the above address.

The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East

Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1UA, tel: (0342) 326944.

Gives advice on purpose-built

caravans, conversions and hire

companies. The Club's *Sites*

Directory & Handbook lists sites with special facilities.

Door to Door 1989/90, Department of Transport,

Disability Unit, Room S10/21,2 Marsham Street,

London SW1P 3EB, tel: 071-276 4973.

A guide to transport for people with disabilities. A new one is planned.

Disability Press Ltd, 17 Union Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1RP, tel: 081-549 6399.

Specialist phrasebook for disabled travellers in Europe. £1.50 (inc p&p) from A Miller.

Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW, tel: (0293) 774535.

Offers advice and has 240 information sheets covering a wide range of destinations and types of accommodation. Also runs

Holiday Helpers which matches up disabled holiday makers with helpers, tel: (0293) 775137.

MENCAP Holiday Services Office, 119 Drake Street, Rochdale, Lancashire OL16 1PZ, tel: (0706) 54111.

Publishes the **MENCAP Holiday Guide** to accommodation where people with learning difficulties are welcome. £2.50 (inc p&p).

New Zealand Tourism Department, New Zealand House, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ, tel: 071-973 0363.

Free access guide for the less mobile traveller.

Nothing Ventured, Harrap Columbus/Rough Guides. A Rough Guide special with practical tips in each section (see review DN July 1991).

£7.99 from bookshops.

Places That Care, 72 High Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1DA.

A new access guide to attractions suitable for elderly and disabled people. £4.99 from WH Smith, Menzies and National Trust shops.

RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

Publishes *Holidays*



Chris Wide and Hissing Sid the python in Kenya. Chris stayed at the Shelly Beach Hotel in Mombassa and booked a Safari when he arrived. Thomson offer package tours to Kenya. 14 nights half-board at the Shelly Beach would set you back about £550. A safari would cost £150-£200 for two nights. Other packages and hotels are available.

in the British Isles 1992 - A Guide for Disabled People (£4.50 from RADAR) and the

1991/2 Holidays and Travel Abroad (£3 from W H Smith, Sherratt and Hughes and RADAR).

Also several information sheets.

SATH, 347 Fifth Avenue, Suite 610, New York, NY

10016, tel: (010-1-212)

4477284. Information for disabled people visiting the USA.

Tripscope, 63 Esmond Road, London W4 1JE, tel: 081-994 9294.

Free information and advice to elderly and disabled people on travel and transport in this country and abroad.



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STACKPOLE CENTRE

Our purpose-built accommodation is designed and equipped to enable anyone with a disability to enjoy holidays with their family and friends. Superb setting in 2000 acre National Trust Estate within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Heated indoor pool. Adventurous activities available. Large groups welcome. Full catering service. On-site launderette.

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Pembroke
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Tel: 0646 661425



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BOOKS

AA Guide for the Disabled Traveller 1991/92

Roy Thompson MBE
(consultant editor)
(AA, Farnham House,
Basingstoke, Hants £3.50, free
to members).

The Automobile Association was the first motoring body to readily acknowledge the need for specialised information to help disabled motorists.

With each edition, the booklet has grown both in content and in professional presentation so that this year's, with a full-colour cover and easy-to-read layout, bears little resemblance to the thin, white, pocket-sized volume of my earlier motoring days.

Much is new for this edition including more on National Trust places, over 50 pages of British hotels offering facilities for disabled guests and advice on travel abroad, including arrangements for orange badge users. I found the section on picnic sites particularly useful - such information is generally unavailable elsewhere - and the UK motorway services section is invaluable to longer distance travellers.

Ten pages are devoted solely to facilities on French

autoroutes. What about the German Autobahn, Italian Autostrada, and Dutch motorway facilities? Including addresses where readers can get this information wouldn't come amiss, nor would a more comprehensive ferry guide (several companies with boats offering excellent services to disabled passengers are excluded altogether).

But there is no doubting the value of having this Guide by your side. It continues to grow in usefulness, even if there is always room for improvement. I look forward to the next issue with interest.

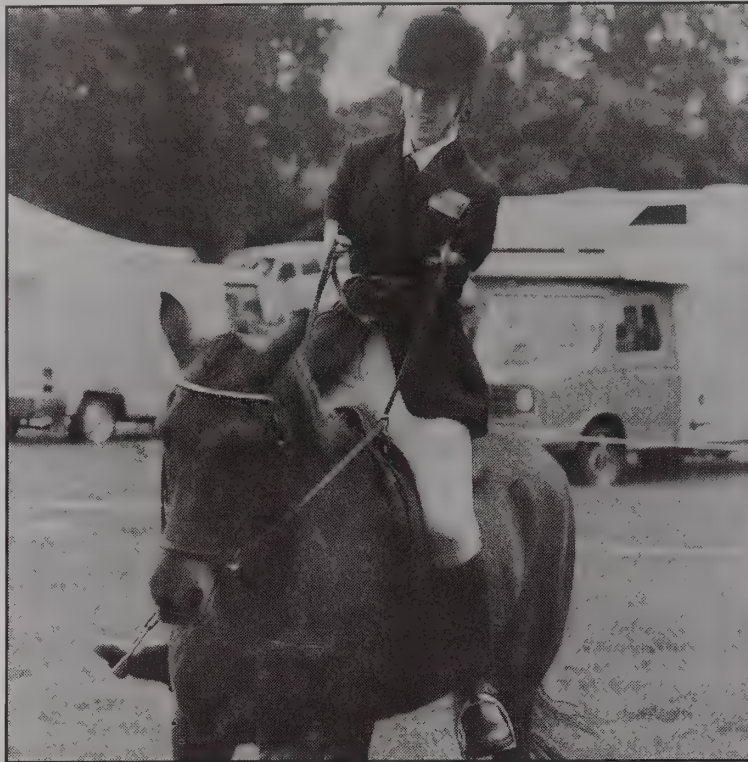
David Griffiths

The Epilepsy Reference Book

by Jolyon Oxley and Jay Smith
(Faber and Faber, £4.99)

"Information about epilepsy is the key to fighting prejudice in daily life". With this opening line, the assumption underlying this book is made clear: that people with epilepsy will encounter a number of problems. The rather negative tone is a pity, because there is a lot of helpful information packed into this short book.

Detailed chapters on medication, how doctors make a diagnosis and the effects of epilepsy on daily life, cover the sorts of questions which are commonly asked by people with epilepsy and their



Riding for the Disabled, by Vanessa Britton, has tips on training horses for disabled riders, aids, groups, teaching and carriage driving. Batsford Books, 4 Baker's Mews, London W1M 1DD. £14.99 (plus £2.50 p&p).

EXPRESS AND STAR

families. It is demystifying and reassuring to have access to such down-to-earth information when epilepsy is diagnosed. Being able to put a proper name to a seizure (or any other sort of disability) can help put it into perspective and make you start to feel in control. Few doctors seem to recognise this.

The book is gently critical of some doctors, noting that they do not always give

patients all the information they need, and that they may

Book news

If it's in print you can have it sent to your home - that's the pledge from Blunt Fin, a new book ordering service. Tel: (0272) 467599.

Wilbur Smith's *Rage* and Dick Francis' *Bolt* are among the 3,000 talking books in the National Listening

be very sensitive if you challenge a diagnosis or a drug regime. Here, the book is firmly on the patient's side, suggesting you seek a second opinion if necessary, and telling you how to go about it.

Despite this, most of the advice is standard medical orthodoxy. The authors are dismissive of alternative therapies and complementary medicine.

Much of the factual information, for example on driving or employment, is clearly and sensitively set out. There is fairly sensible advice on whether or not to mention epilepsy on job application forms (for those jobs you are not barred from).

I could have done without the final chapter "Progress Now", which is principally an appeal for funds for the epilepsy charities. But this does not unduly mar what is in the main a well-written handbook, which is cheap enough to be widely accessible.

Frances Hasler

Library. For £15

membership you get a tape player and unlimited tapes. Post free. Tel: 071-407 9417.

Parents on Dyslexia, by Saskis van der Stoel (ed), is available from Multilingual Matters, 8a Hill Road, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 7HH. £8.95.



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TERRIFIC!

The Kelly is a good looking, lightweight, foldable buggy for children with mild-to-moderate physical disabilities.

This versatile buggy provides effective positioning and support without sacrificing comfort or appearance.

Kids will love the "with-it" look and smooth ride. Parents will love the convenience. With its 6" front swivel castors and 8" rear wheels, it is easy to push and folds in seconds. The Kelly accommodates a variety of sizes of seating systems that can be changed as the child grows.

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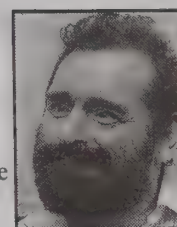
Ortho Kinetics (UK) Ltd.,
Wednesfield, Wolverhampton
WV13 3XA.

Telephone: 0902 866166

DN1/92

TV

Public Eye:
"A Betrayal of Trust" (BBC2, 29 Nov) admirably investigated the sensitive subject of the sexual abuse of people with learning difficulties. It did so mindful of the tenets of the self-advocacy and disability movements. The terminology used by the programme-makers (though not necessarily by interviewees) was absolutely, and consistently, appropriate.



People with learning difficulties were frequently given their own voice. But I'm not sure whether self-advocacy in this context wasn't carried a bit too far. If the programme had been about child sexual abuse or women's experience of rape, would they have been asked to give such intimate details?

Equinox: "The Dyslexic Engineer" (C4, 24 November) highlighted engineering rather than dyslexia. Ben Bowlby, the engineer, emphasised his career and not the influence of his impairment on his life and work. Good, but the title promised more.

No matter how improved the on-screen representation of disability is in this year's **Children in Need** (BBC1, 22 November), the fact remains that if society took its responsibilities seriously and made enough provision as a matter of right, events like *Children in Need* wouldn't need to exist. It seems to me that maintaining appeals helps to put back the time when society takes on such responsibilities.

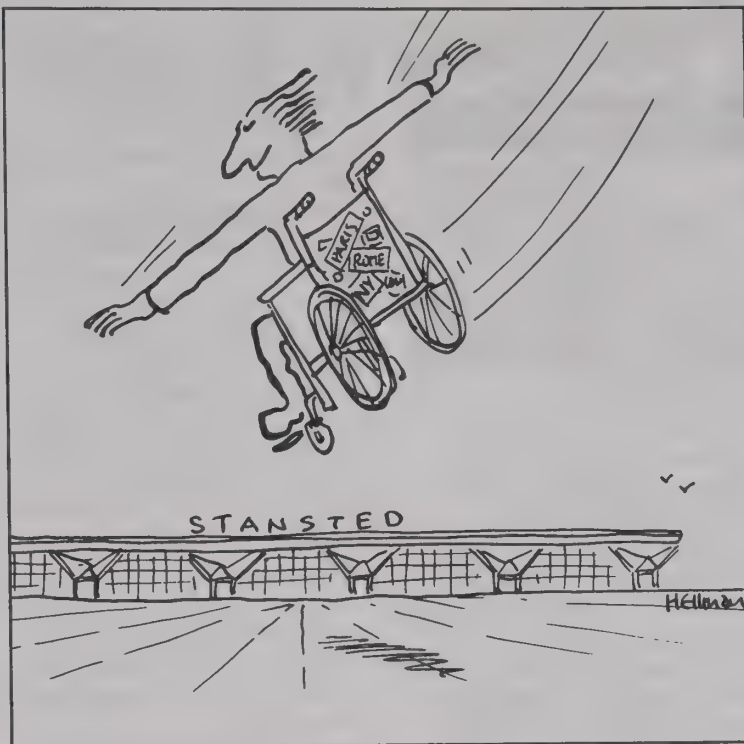
But the 1991 event was certainly better than in previous years. Disabled people were seen organising their own fundraising, leading their own projects and defying a disabling society. With one exception, we were seen as pro-active, not passive. And even the exception was still a positive film because the teachers of visually impaired people with learning difficulties talked about empowerment and rights.

The biggest blemish remains *Children of "Courage"* - and Esther Rantzen!

December saw the last in the final series of **Same Difference** (C4). But the production team is already making some programmes for *People First*, Channel 4's new peak-time series of single documentaries. Next March is when it all happens - a week of disability programming, incorporating the launch of *People First* and the start of *Sign On*, the successor of *Listening Eye*.

Chris Davies

ON THE LEFT... A HOUSE FOR A DISABLED PERSON... ON THE RIGHT A HOUSE FOR AN ABLE-BODIED PERSON... ER, OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY ROUND...!?



An exhibition of Louis Hellman cartoons was at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London in December. Mr Hellman contributes to the *Architects' Journal* and the Centre for Accessible Environment's *Access by Design* magazine.

EXHIBITION

Shopping Sensations

Now in Bradford, *Shopping Sensations* was first shown at the Rothschild Exhibition hall bang in the middle of Croydon's busy Whitgift Shopping Centre. Every attention was paid to the needs of disabled people with good access, large print and Braille information, as well as assistance and audio tapes.

Each feature had its own little shop-like area. The most hilarious one was John White's "Animated Pet Shop". Everything was constructed from scrap metal bits and pieces which could be

persuaded to move. The goldfish in a (real water) tank performed their "synchronised sequence" with disdain, while the fierce rattle snake swayed and rattled with every tug at its head. But the favourites were the "doggies". Two endearing, metal, canines eagerly awaited being shaken, patted and even banged to set their tails a-wagging, their rubber tongues a-lolling and their heads a-nodding.

The "Illusion of Belongings" by Audrey Barker was a magic cave of sensations. She is a wheelchair user and has two young artists to help her set up pieces. This part of the show gave the many visiting teachers and pupils plenty of scope for future projects.

In "Sound", Hugh Davies, musician and artist, showed how most household noises have musical possibilities, as he showed by wiring up a telephone to door chimes and

"dialling" musical tones.

Amused shock was to be found in "Pig in a Poke" by Darrell Yiner. I won't spoil this for those who may visit it later, but I can tell you it has eight black boxes, which "perform" when picked up (it was obvious from the delighted yells that someone had picked

up the one that gave off an loud alarm and swelled up!)

The large wall collage by Sally-Anne Wood and David Dellafore was very impressive. Second-hand shopping bags in all shapes, sizes and colours, were set behind a white wooden trellis which you could reach through. This was a great attraction to the visually impaired visitor who felt the zips and handles and the many textures and shapes. Many people thought they could feel bags which used to be their's.

There was also an amazing picture by blind artist Lily Dodds of a street shopping scene from her childhood.

Every bit of this "sensational" exhibition involves and engages the imagination. Not to be missed.

Gioya Steinke

City Art Gallery, Bradford, till 23 February. After that, contact Jane Heath, tel: (0954) 50106.

Arts news

Disability Arts Magazine (DAM) is now on tape. Tel: (0472) 280031.

The new edition of the Arts Council's *Arts and Disability Directory* has information on where to go, what to see, training, or how to get a job/funding. Also available in large print/cassette or Braille. Free to disabled individuals and arts organisations of disabled people. Sliding scale of charges for others. Tel: 071-333 0100.

VIDEO

1 DANCES WITH WOLVES (Guild). Costner's epic breathes life into the Western.

2 SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (20-20). Jodie Foster's FBI rookie on the trail of serial killer in psycho thriller.

3 THE DOORS (Guild). An embellished bio-pic of sixties cult band.

4 MISERY (First Independent). Novelist is forced to write for his life in Steven King tale.

5 HAMLET (20-20). Aussie Mel Gibson is a surprisingly good dane in Zeffirelli.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart: The Video Palace

Look out for

Photographic show featuring work by photographers with learning disabilities. Hackney, London. Till 31 January. Tel: 081-986 6914.

Hogwash, a hot-rocking play for the under 5s by Northern Stage. BSL interpreted performances on 2 and 9 January. Newcastle. Tel: 091-232 9974.

Hands On, a tactile exhibition of work by visually impaired people. West Midlands till 10 January, then Birmingham and Droitwich. Contact Ilona Bryan, tel: (0384) 423651.

Walkabouts by Metco

Extra mobility for around £100!

Walkabouts keep you mobile and active. They have wheels, directional control, brakes and baskets.

The Sit-Down Walkabout has a handy seat. They fold flat for transport and delivery is included in the price.

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Send to: METCO WALKABOUTS, FREEPOST BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM NG9 1BR No stamp required.

Tel: (0602) 255488.

DN1/92



Extra mobility for around £100!

Share Your Problems

write to Ann Dambrough, DN, address page 2

Start the new year with a fresh beginning



Fresh starts, new beginnings - did you make any New Year resolutions? Lots of people decide to give up smoking or lose weight - again. But the really exciting resolutions are those we make when we decide to try something very different - to change our life in some way by introducing a new interest. Having decided on a fresh start, what can we choose?

Many of us spend a lot of time sitting down. Dave Hutchins, who uses a wheelchair, tells me that he decided to put this to good use by taking up writing seriously. His local library was most helpful, giving him the address of the local writing circle and a brochure listing the creative writing lessons at a nearby day college. The writing circle proved welcoming: "I met members from all walks of life, young and old, bound together by the ambition to write." The creative writing (beginners) class at the college really set Dave on course.

Since then he has seen his name in print in many different publications, sometimes in letters columns, sometimes in articles. His fees have helped to buy a secondhand typewriter and text books. He says, "I don't expect to make a fortune, but I've made some valuable friends. At present, I'm writing my first full length book, encouraged and helped by my tutor and friends at the creative writing (advanced) class I'm now attending."

If you are visually impaired and want to develop your writing abilities you can contact the Blind Writers Association. Formed by a group of blind and partially sighted people, it aims to

encourage, advise and inform members, whether they are writing for pleasure or profit.

Age need be no bar to making a fresh start. Dr Fisher, 79, and disabled by generalised arthritis, decided to learn to use a word processor. Many older people who would find this daunting might be encouraged by Dr Fisher who was determined to come to grips with this new technology despite, as he put it, having defective memory and vision, imperfect manipulation and being a slow learner. He felt the benefits of using a word processor for letter writing, producing articles (and possibly a book), outweighed any difficulties he might have.

A fresh start can bring out the adventurous side in you. For one reader, who I will call Jennifer, her fresh start involved going on her first bus trip alone. I'm sure that will have been both frightening and exciting all at the same time. Everybody congratulated her on this great adventure and Jennifer is now going to take regular trips by herself. As she says, "I'm ecstatic".

At this time of the year, we may not feel like doing outdoor sport and leisure, but we can start planning for the warmer weather. There are lots of organisations with facilities for disabled people. Local archery groups are always looking for new members. Help can be given with release aids, special adaptations, and where to seek tuition.

Or how about canoeing? The British Canoe Union believes disabled people should be encouraged to play as active a part as ordinary members of local clubs. There are several groups which make provision for disabled people, and many

suitable kayaks and canoes, or ones which can be adapted for special needs. The BCU will give advice on all this, and they also publish *A Guide to Canoeing with Disabled Persons*, £3.

The Tandem Club has a liaison officer for disabled members who is glad to offer help to blind or partially sighted people or those with, say, balancing problems.

Perhaps you would like to study. There are a number of "open learning" schemes with no age restriction or special entry requirements. The Open College of the Arts, for example, aims to provide a broad and stimulating arts education for people who are unable to attend a college regularly. Tutorial support is provided.

The Open University (OU) offers courses in a range of subjects including arts, computing, educational studies, management, science, social sciences and technology. The adviser on the education of students with disabilities would be glad to liaise with regional colleagues on the provision of suitable services.

While the OU focuses on academic courses, the Open College concentrates on vocational education and training, offering a new approach to skills training. Again, advice and support is available through local centres.

Are you sending any Valentine cards next month? I remember as a teenager being half worried that my intended would find out who had sent this declaration of love and half worried that he would not! Since the course of true love rarely runs smoothly, I thought we would discuss sexuality next month.

While everyone has sexual or emotional difficulties at some time in their lives, disabled people may have more than their fair share. Some of the problems, of course, arise as a result of society's prejudice.

Please write to me about your experiences and how you feel about this very important part of your life. Has your disability caused any particular problems? It goes without saying that your letters remain completely confidential. I only ever mention real names when permission has been given. We can learn so much from each other - so I look forward to hearing from you.

Ray Bourne, *Blind Writers Association*, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 6NQ. John Burgess, *Archery for Disabled People*, 7 New Street, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5BW. Please send 4in by 9in sac. British Canoe Union, tel: (0602) 821100. The Tandem Club, 25 Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2AN. Open College of the Arts, tel: (0226) 730495. Central Enquiry Service, Open University, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY. The Open College, Freepost, Warrington WA2 7BR.

PROFILE



Ray Kennedy

Anyone who was a football fan in the '70s has good reason to remember Ray Kennedy: he won five league championship winners medals with Arsenal and Liverpool, two FA Cup final medals, three European Cup winners medals and 17 England caps.

Many of the most memorable moments were recalled in the Channel Four documentary, *A Ray of Hope* on 26 December, which centred around Ray's fight against Parkinson's Disease.

Ray, 40, has long been the public face of Parkinson's Disease (he is on Parkinson's Disease Society posters).

He was diagnosed at age 34, just after retiring from football.

"At first I did not want any of my fans to see me ill, but then I realised that it would be better if they did, because it's vital people know more about this condition," he said.

"When I was at Liverpool I thought I could do anything but now there are times when I can't even move or talk."

Ray was born in Newcastle and dreamed of being a soccer star from the moment he was big enough to kick a ball.

After years of waiting, Arsenal offered him a contract in 1969. His debut was spectacular, scoring with his first touch of the ball against Belgian champions Anderlecht in the 1970 Fairs Cup final.

Ray became Arsenal's leading scorer and netted the goal that won the 1971 league championship. Five days later he helped them win the FA Cup.

While at Liverpool, he helped the team win four league titles, three European cups and an FA Cup final.

Despite his success on the field, Ray began to worry about his health. "My legs were getting stiffer and I sometimes felt that my right foot was dragging along the floor." Unknown to him, he was beginning to develop Parkinson's Disease.

After a move to Swansea City in 1982, matters came to a head when manager John Toshack accused Ray of not trying hard enough.

"That hurt me a lot," said Ray, "because I was trying my best but my body let me down."

After a spell with Hartlepool Ray gave up football and took over a Newcastle pub.

"I became very self conscious and shy. There were times when I did not want to go out and face people."

"That is why discovering I had Parkinson's Disease was a relief. It was good to know what was wrong with me."

People with Parkinson's Disease have a deficiency of the chemical dopamine in their brains. They develop problems controlling and co-ordinating their movements.

Ray takes tablets every two hours and injections to relieve his symptoms.

"When the drugs work I feel fine. But my crises can come on with little warning. It is very worrying if you are out shopping and suddenly you can't move. It's frustrating."

Ray, who survives on his footballing pension, has been helped by his old team-mates. Last May, £70,000 was raised at a testimonial match between Arsenal and Liverpool.

"The last five years have been very tough," said Ray, who is writing his autobiography and looking for tv work. "I've lost my marriage, my health and my business. But I feel I've turned a corner and am getting my life together."

"I would like to become an ambassador for the Parkinson's Disease Society. They do tremendous work and I would like to do my bit to help people as well."

Tim Russell

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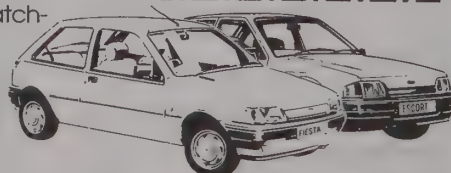
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Food glorious food for all to enjoy

There's more to food and feeding than meets the palate, as parent Susan Joiner found out when she became the fed instead of the feeder

I was blindfolded, hands bound, all conversation between my now indispensable partner and myself forbidden.

I had, as far as I was able, rendered myself profoundly disabled for a feeding workshop organised by Karen Jeffries, chief dietician of the Portsmouth Community Unit for the Hampshire branch of the National Council for Special Education.

Feeding, explained Karen, has a significance in society that goes beyond mere nutrition. Offering and accepting food are social currency: we invite people for drinks, for a meal, etc.

Whole industries thrive on the paraphernalia of eating: china, glass, cutlery, linen, flowers, candles, even music, can be part of the total feeding experience. These are the "props" we use to encourage conversation, through which we can express love, friendship, creativity and power. This is also where some disabled people are most deprived.

Describing a memorable meal with friends, you might say it was "adventurous", "relaxing" and "fun".

After experiencing passive

feeding however, words such as "frustration", "refuelling", "tension" (and indigestion!) come to mind.

Instead of being enjoyable, food can seem repulsive to some severely disabled people. When I found myself suddenly deprived of hands and sight I found the touch of sliced kiwi



Some children find it easier to learn to eat standing up.

fruit on my lips and the smell of cheese so repugnant that I refused to eat either, yet normally I like both.

Food can also be unrelentingly boring. Karen cited the example of people whose entire meals are

consigned to the liquidiser only to emerge as one bland, homogenised paste.

But it need not be like that. "Even when swallowing is difficult," said Karen, "we can experiment with texture and variety, and, if there is any residual sight, colour. We should consider smell, comfort - try anything in fact, that will raise the quality of the experience."

At the workshop, I was lucky to be partnered by someone who responded automatically to my facial expressions. Each mouthful was heralded by a gentle stroke on my arm, and I was allowed first to smell the food, and then to feel it on my lips.

My thoughts turned to a disabled child I had once seen in a cafeteria, being fed briskly by a woman. Instead of warning strokes on the arm, there was a steady shovelling of baby food into a mouth already struggling to take over breathing from a blocked nose. Periodically, the food was spat out and mopped up.

As an onlooker then, I felt disturbed. As a parent of a disabled child and someone who has experienced, albeit briefly, the discomfort of



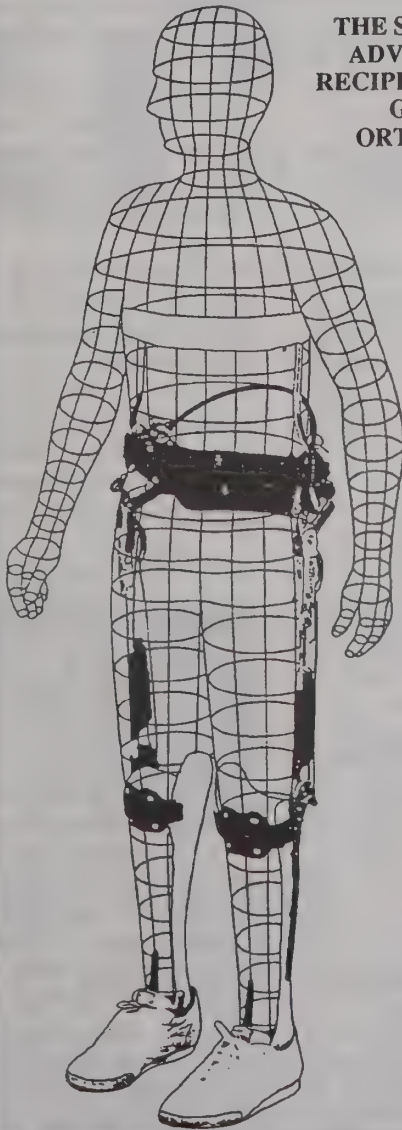
The illustrations are from *Mealtimes for Children with Cerebral Palsy* by Lesley Carroll, which advises on topics such as constipation, dental care and teaching your child to feed himself. £5 for professionals, £3.50 for parents. Send large (A4) SAE to Cheyne Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, 61 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea SW3 5LX.

GWEN MANDLEY

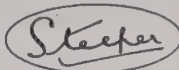
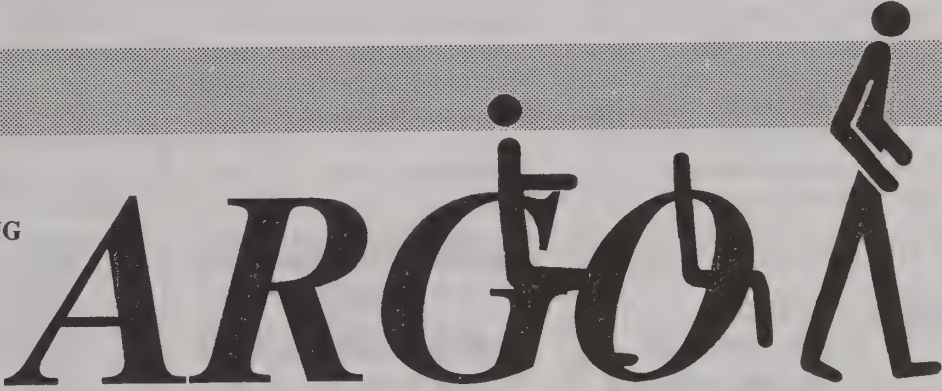
passive feeding, I would have to speak to that woman, to explain. I have become a crusader.

Karen Jeffries, Portsmouth Community Team, PO Box 107, Southsea, PO4 8NG.

CAN YOU HELP?
 DN is looking for green-fingered writers for its gardening issue in March. Ideas please to the editor, Mary Wilkinson, DN, address page 2.



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The Steeper ARGO is a modular reciprocating gait orthosis for adults. It can only be supplied and fitted by Steeper certified workshops and clinics.

It is designed for those who have suffer neurological or neuromuscular damage leading to loss of major control of the lower trunk and legs and can provide the opportunity to walk again with the help of appropriate assistive devices.

This orthosis will improve the quality of life for suitable individuals; however, it will not substitute for wheelchair mobility in situations where speed and range are important. The ARGO is acceptable cosmetically and can be worn over or under everyday clothing; trainers or similar casual shoes are most suited to this orthosis.

It is a simple device to put on and take off. This may be done when sitting in a chair or whilst lying on a bed.

It may be used when driving a car with a suitably adjusted seat and hand controls.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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 Telex: 261787

or

THE WALK FUND
 St. Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital
 St. Ann's Ward
 Eastcote,
 Pinner,
 Middlesex HA5 2NB
 Telephone: 081-429 3473

How children can walk tall

Several parents have written to *DN* praising an adjustable mobile walker produced by medical engineer David Hart of Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Mrs Christine Morton of Wakefield, West Yorkshire reported how her son Peter, who has cp and was then five, could not sit up or crawl independently and had very limited use of his hands.

After using the walker for

CHECKOUT

about three months, "the result was incredible."

"For the first time he can take himself for a walk, see things from a new perspective, go where he wants to go, touch things he wants to touch and inspect things in his own time. He can explore areas he has never been able to before, even play out," said Mrs Morton.

"The attitude of other children towards him has changed now that he is at their level and he is more able to join in their games. This new freedom has made Peter much more self confident. As a consequence, his speech has improved tremendously."

Peter and Sophie Heggie (right) are two of the 39 children who have the trainer, price £1,000.

Another 700 children have been assessed by Mr Hart as benefitting from it, but have to wait their turn and another 1,000 are waiting to be assessed because he does not have enough staff to monitor their progress.



Under her own steam: Sophie Heggie, 4, from Barnsley, is off, encouraged by her mother Pam.

DAILY MAIL/SOLO

Physiotherapists and occupational therapists from The Spastics Society, who visited the David Hart Centre last year, said that the combination of bracing and cable control for changing direction was "unique" and, the walker "seems to be filling a void for parents who can see the benefit of having their child upright and mobile."

They agreed that a more detailed initial assessment was needed and that the usefulness of the walker to the child must be monitored regularly.

The walker was not a "cure

all", they concluded, but "could benefit some cerebral palsy children".

"We believe the walker is a very interesting and constructive idea," said Julian Sorsby, principal director of operations at The Spastics Society. "Subject to a full evaluation, we hope to cooperate with Mr Hart in developing and producing it."

Meanwhile, he would like to hear from people already using the walker. (address page 2).

David Hart Centre, tel: (0535) 667306.

WHAT'S ON

Sexual Abuse, two one day seminars at The Monckton Theatre, St George's Hospital, London. 15 January and 12 February. £140 for two days, £75 for one. More details from Philippa Weitz, The Conference Unit, Department of Mental Health Sciences, St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17 0RE, tel: 081-672 9944 ext 55534.

Thinking of Starting your own Business? Free 10 day training programme for disabled people starting 22 January in Southgate, north London. Contact Dow-Stoker Ltd, The Mill, Stortford Road, Hatfield Heath, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 7DL, tel: (0279) 730056.

Keeping up Appearances, a one day conference on clothing and personal image for disabled people, 22 January at the Disabled Living Services Style Centre in Manchester. £35. For further information contact Jackie Whitworth, DLSS Centre, Redbank House, Redbank, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 061-832 3678.

Introduction to Practical Video Making: a course for disabled women. 23-24 January in London. Fees on a sliding scale (£10-£40). For details send an SAE to WAVES London Women's Centre, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU, tel: 071-430 1076.

Being Assertive and Feeling Confident, a two day course, 27-29 January at Castle Priory College in Oxfordshire. £175. More details from Castle Priory College, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0HE, tel: (0491) 37551.

Oregon - The Lessons for Britain, a lunch-time seminar about this controversial method of providing services, at the Kings Fund Centre, Camden, London on 31 January. £12. Contact Lisa Showman, tel: 071-267 6111 ext 219.

Functional Assessment of Low Vision, a one day course at RNIB National Mobility Centre in Birmingham, 5 February. £65. Further details from the Principal, RNIB-NMC, 1 The Square, 111 Broad Street, Birmingham B15 1AS, tel: 021-643 9912.

Basic Awareness and Sign Skills, a three day course (over three weeks) starting 13 February in Greenwich, London. £50. Details from Breakthrough Deaf-Hearing Integration, The London Centre, The Hall, Peyton Place, Greenwich, London SE10 8RS, tel: 081-853 5661, minicom: 081-853 2683.

Hounslow Social Services run a **resource service and low vision clinic** on the second Tuesday of every month at the Community Room (in the Library), Treaty Centre, off Hounslow High Street, Hounslow, tel and minicom: 081-862 6074.

Learoyd Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8XU. Make cheques payable to Bailey Distribution Ltd.

MENCAP has a new General Election pack explaining how to raise issues like anti-discrimination legislation with political parties and parliamentary candidates. It covers writing a


press release and dealing with the media. Free from MENCAP's parliamentary affairs department, tel: 071-454 0454.

The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities (SKILL) has a campaign pack for people who want to ensure that the new Further and Higher Education Bill meets the needs of disabled students. It covers writing to MPs, holding demos and organising public meetings. £1.50 from SKILL, tel: 071-274 0565.

MOVES



Carole Bradley has taken up the new post of chief executive at The British Sports Association for the Disabled. **Jackie Evans** (above) is now disabilities co-ordinator at Wolverhampton Polytechnic. **Richard Gutch** starts as chief executive at Arthritis Care in February while **Jean Gaffin** becomes executive director of the National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Service. **Lesley Moreland** is now director of the Charity Forum.




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INFO

Meeting the Challenge, a publication from the King's Fund Centre, looks at community-based services for people with learning difficulties and challenging behaviour. £7.15 (inc p&p) from Bailey Distribution,

We are a unique centre and innovative project in Hackney providing support and activities for people with disabilities and their families.

Begun by parents as a play group 14 years ago we now have youth and employment projects, summer play schemes etc.

All based in our accessible 3 storey building we are now seeking:

An African/Caribbean Youth Worker

Experience including disability issues, enthusiasm, team work skills and initiative to develop activities are required.

Salary scale 2B £14,169 - £17,148 inclusive of London weighting.

Race Relations Act 1976 section 38 (1) (b) applies.
We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as we are under-represented in this area.

Please send SAE 10" x 4" to The Huddleston Centre, 30 Powell Road, London E5 8DJ. For further details telephone 081-985 8869 or minicom 081-985 8440.

Closing date for return of applications 24th January 1992.
Interviews will start from 7th February 1992.

Disability Now January 1992

Win
a £10 prize

Create-a-caption

The Reverend Michael Shaw and Linda Harries presented a basket of watercress and flowers to Norma Major in December to celebrate the 125th birthday of John Grooms Association for Disabled People.

John Groom started the association by helping disabled children, who sold watercress on the streets of London, to survive.

But what else might these fair ladies and gent be saying (or singing)? Answers please by 9 January, address page 2.

December winner

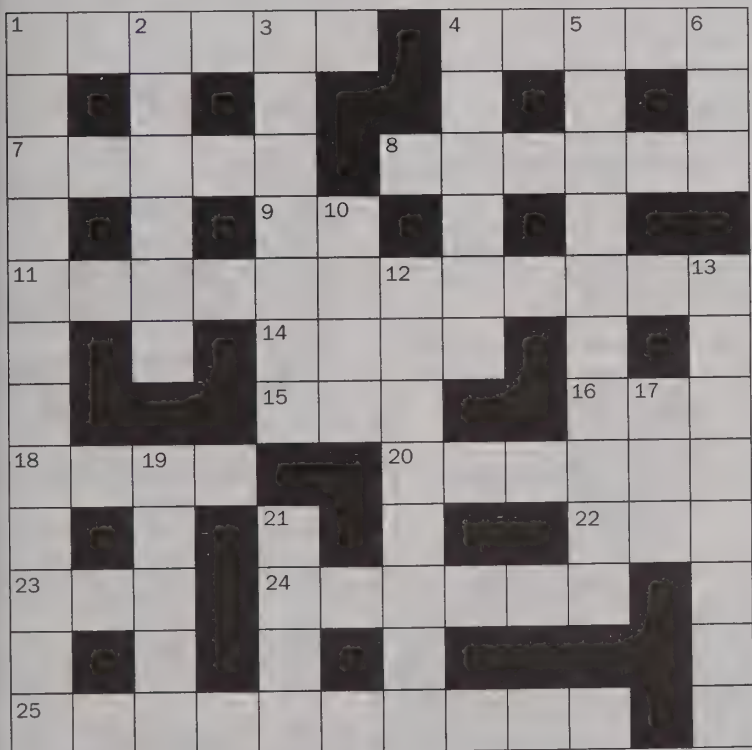
The £10 goes to Joan Dawe who borrowed the catchphrase made famous by comedy star Hilda Baker, "She nose you know." Thanks for all your entries.



DN's crossword

Answers page 27

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Breathing disability (6)
4. Small _____, '60s pop group (5)
7. East _____ country (5)
8. Ashen (6)
9. Morning (2)
11. Royal member of pack of cards (5, 2, 5)
14. Slang for social security benefit (4)
15. There is a lot of it about nothing, according to Shakespeare (3)
16. Long period of time (3)
18. Mammal with flippers - or rock star (4)
20. You might look through or fall out of one (6)
22. Electric particle (3)
23. Noughts _____ crosses (3)
24. Kind of cake eaten in the

north (6)

25. Pam ring Sid (anag)

DOWN

1. Place to buy old and valuable things (8, 4)
2. Wood (6)
3. Girl's name - mentioned in Shakespeare play (7)
4. Northern European country (6)
5. Shaded (8, 2)
6. _____ Vicious, '70s punk singer (3)
10. In the _____, song by Glenn Miller (4)
12. Wolf deer (anag)
13. Giving birth to (8)
17. Character in Winnie-the-Pooh stories (3)
19. Mountain range (5)
21. _____ all hours (4)

Strangers in a strange land

Never take a holiday when you feel in need of one. To survive, you have to be strong in mind and body, with nerves of steel. I should know; I spent two and a half sun-soaked weeks in the south of France last summer.

But seriously, holidays do bring their own difficulties. Away from home, we are forced to see our daughter through strangers' eyes. We understand her attempts to articulate slow, fragmented syllables. We have the patience to piece them together into intelligible words. We know that when she pulls at our mouths she wants us to repeat her words so she can be sure we've understood them.

But passers-by see a retarded child in a wheelchair making spastic contortions of her face, uttering strange noises and pawing the faces of those who come near her - the last thing anyone wants on a holiday beach.

Some people (let's call them "the ignorant") come up to us and begin talking in wildly general terms about "the handicapped". "They are usually so happy...they are such an inspiration...nature always compensates them in some way." (It does? I hadn't noticed.)

Then there are the other people who march up to our daughter and talk at her rapidly for several minutes. Not anticipating any response, they stride off again smugly,

proud to have "done their bit".

Once in a while we meet that rare person who wants to speak with Ellen. He or she is rewarded with a dazzling smile and the request, "Go to..." which trails off because she doesn't know the name of this kind stranger.

Back at the caravan I prepare the evening meal amidst riotous horseplay. The usual squabbles over whose turn it is to lay the table are settled (by me) with a well-aimed wet dishcloth. (What would all those people on the beach think, to see us behaving

like a normal family?)

Eventually the children go to bed. Then, for a short while, we can be again the same two people who got married all those years ago, who've grown to be such good friends since then, and who never dreamed at the outset what a life we would have to share, nor that we could find such depths of strength and support in each other.

Finally it's home again, with 12 months to build up enough stamina to cope with another holiday.

Ros Bunney

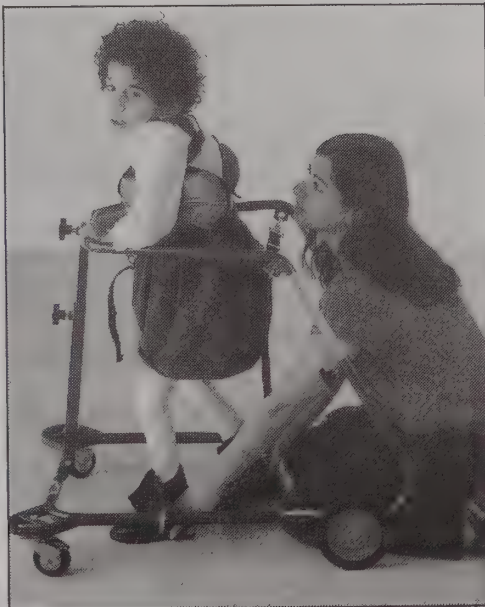
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... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ

Answers page 27

1. Which newspaper man died?
2. Which British hostage was released from the Middle East?
3. Which rock star died?
4. Which boxer came back?
5. Which pop star made the most expensive video ever?
6. Who made Salman Rushdie angry?
7. Who are the Tottenham three?
8. Where did a poll show that the PM was supported by only 7 per cent of the population?

9. Which is the first national employer to offer time off work for employees to look after disabled relatives?
10. On what foreign issue do Mrs Thatcher and Mr Major disagree?

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

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PLANET is an exciting new national project based at Harperbury Hospital, Radlett, Hertfordshire being developed by SCF and Mencap, working with disabled people to increase opportunities for play, leisure and recreation.

We are looking for a part-time (25 hours per week) Development Worker with personal experience of disability issues, good communications skills and a strong commitment to equal opportunities and consumer participation. You will be responsible for identifying and researching play, leisure and recreation opportunities and developing the national remit of the project.

For further details and an application form please write to Maureen Muddell, SCF, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD. Details are also available in large print or on audio tape.

Closing date: 23rd January 1992.

We would particularly welcome applications from disabled people for this exciting and flexible post.

SCF aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

Save the Children

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RNIB is working towards becoming an Equal Opportunities Organisation



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A job description and application form can be obtained from the Personnel Department, RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Telephone: 071-388 1266 Ext. 2460 (Ansaphone 9am-5pm).

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Wednesday 15 January 1992. Interviews will be held during the week commencing 3 February.

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In order to offer the best possible service to our community we believe our workforce should reflect the make-up of the population of Leicester. In this area of work women, ethnic minority people and people with disabilities are under-represented and we would therefore particularly welcome applications from women, ethnic minority people and people with disabilities. The final appointments will be made on merit.

Closing date: 13th January 1992

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Advertisements are some-times shortened. For an application form and fuller details: Tel: 0533 527099 (24 hours) Minicom Service — office hours only or write to: The Recruitment & Equal Opportunity Development Section, Personnel & Management Services Department, B4 New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Personal callers welcome 9 — 4.30 weekdays.

As part of the City Council's commitment to an Equal Opportunity Policy, all employees and applicants for employment will be given equal opportunity in recruitment, in training, and in promotion to more senior jobs, irrespective of their racial origins, sex, age*, disability, marital status, religious beliefs, class or sexual orientation.

*except when complying with statutory or other requirements. Disabled persons are guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced.

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- hold a governing body special needs qualification and/or experience of taking recreational sessions for people with special needs.

For further details and/or an application form please contact **Personnel Officer, Leisure and Recreation Department, 181 King Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 9JU. Tel: 081 748 5429 (24 hour answering service). Please quote reference RPRD 17. Closing date: 1st February, 1992.**

We welcome applications regardless of gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, sexuality, age (up to 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men.

JOB SHARERS WELCOME.

We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are currently under-represented in this organisation.

LAND & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Applications for the following posts are particularly encouraged from women, black people and disabled people. These groups are currently under represented in this area of work but their contribution will be highly valued.

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Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Personnel Section, Land and Property Department, 8th Floor, St. James Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FL. Tel: 061 234 1231. Minicom users only 061 234 1338. Closing date 3rd February 1992.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants

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021-357 4965.

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(New & Secondhand [All Types])
For a limited period only, special offer on Kuschall and Swift wheelchairs plus our usual range of chairs which are available from stock. Advice and Alternative Enquiries Welcome Contact: **Jamie: Unit E3 & E4, Shield Business Centre, Shield Drive, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX Tel: 081-569 8955**

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

remains determined to improve the delivery of quality services for all its residents. Independent Living and Equality for all are essential themes in our approach to meeting the needs of the individual.

We believe in a corporate approach to service provision that cuts across departmental boundaries. We are also planning increased decentralisation as a means of focussing on service needs at a local level.

The Social Services Department has a vital role to play in the Council's strategy. The Department is re-organising to meet the challenges of delivering quality services that respond to the needs of the individual, support independent living, and are accessible to all.

We make it easy to combine parenthood and work and offer a Workplace Childcare Scheme, flexible hours, excellent maternity/paternity and annual leave entitlement, plus special leave provision.

- ▲ These appointments are crucial to the achievement of our goals. We are interested in applicants from any background or experience base. You must demonstrate skills and achievements which show that you can act dynamically in planning, managing and delivering responsive services.
- ▲ You must be committed to team working, within the Department and as part of a corporate and multi-agency strategy.

- ▲ A full information pack is available from Gillian Robinson, Room 6033, PO Box 536, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2AF
- ▲ ● Telephone or Minicom: 061 234 3818 ● Fax: 061 234 3899. Please state which post you are interested in.

- ▲ The pack is available in BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT, or TAPE. Closing Date: 28th January. Interviews: 10th and 11th February.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we positively welcome applications from women and men regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality, or responsibilities for dependants.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR - COMMUNITY CARE

£33,375 - £36,840

To lead the development and delivery of community care, and also to act as Deputy Director. The postholder must take an innovative approach to ensuring that services are responsive to the demands of service users, and be committed to strategic team working.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - STRATEGIC PLANNING

£27,408 - £29,931

To lead the planning, review, and development process and integrate all activities within the corporate response. Having a Quality Assurance perspective, this post will work closely with the Inspectorate. This post will have specific responsibilities for HIV/AIDS issues and will also cover resolution of complaints, public relations, and co-ordination with all Agencies.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - SUPPORT SERVICES

£29,517 - £32,235

To lead the Management process in support of the Directorate as a whole. This will encompass financial and budgetary responsibilities, as well as human resource management and all ancillary and central support services.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071- 252 1362. Fax: 071- 237 8019.

Deadlines for February issue: booking by 10 January, camera ready artwork/copy by 14 January.

FIND-A-FRIEND

LANCASHIRE LADY, 39, pleasant and agreeable, slightly disabled with CP, would like to meet a similar person for friendship and possible sharing of accommodation in the future. Box No. 393.

MALE QUADRAPLEGIC C5/6. I am 49 and in need of female companionship. Interests include painting, television, motoring. I'm told I can be good company. Perhaps there is someone out there looking for my type? I have my own house and car. If you live in the Glasgow area please reply. Box No. 395.

SCOTTISH LIZBETH would like David Rice to write again as I misplaced your address. Box No. 396.

MALE, 33, wheelchair user with CP and speech problem, seeks single able-bodied female (25-35) in Glasgow area for loving relationship. Must be caring, patient non-smoker with a sense of humour. My hobbies are discos, football, computing, music, reading, history and socialising. All letters will be answered. Box No. 397

Please send a cheque for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. To reply to a Find-a-Friend indicate the Box No. and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. Send to *DN*, address page 2.

SERVICES

DATES FOR THE DISABLED - A BETTER LIFE -
36 Park Grove, Edgware, Middx. HA8 7SJ
Tel. 081-958 1095
081-958 9657



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons Ladies should not be shy of applying!
All enquiries to: HANDIDATE
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

WANTED

Photos wanted of disabled women for exhibition entitled 'Positive Images of Disabled Women'. To be shown initially in Southampton as part of International Women's Week 1992. Please send 35 mm photos and negatives with SAE to the following address by 30th January 1992. Photos should be chosen by disabled women, not necessarily taken by them. Information about the photograph would be appreciated to be used as text on the display. Send to 1a Wellington Lodge, Welland Green, Millbrook, Southampton SO1 9DL.

Outrage's Focus Group for people with disabilities, **LINK**, are looking for a fully accessible place/centre where fortnightly meetings can be held in evenings only. Please contact Tim: Outrage LLGC, 67 Cow Cross Street, London EC2. Tel: 071-490 7153.

HELP! I HAVE CEREBRAL PALSY and have just completed my first year with Open University. I need some academic assistance for next year. Is there any one who can help? Ring Jimmy Telesford on 071-732 6595 or 071-635 8215.

MALE COMPANION, 50s' wanted to join me for a week's holiday in Devon in June 92. Tel: Tony Eves (0273) 689267.

SOCIAL SERVICES

SERVICE MANAGER (ADULT SERVICES)

£23,910 - £25,539

Leicester City East Division, 1 Grey Friars, Leicester.

Can you meet the challenge of Managing Resources in an exciting/changing environment?

The new Management Team in the Division aspires to work in a democratic way, be closer to its staff and users of the service, have clear communication with staff and the public and to work towards an 'Equality Service for All'.

You will manage Team Managers for field work, residential, and day services for:

- People with Learning Difficulties.
- People with Mental Health Difficulties.
- People with sensory and/or physical disabilities.
- Services for older people.

Do you have:

- At least two years experience of managing a group of staff, including a budget, within the broad range of Adult Services.
- A positive commitment in developing Services for Adults.
- An ability to play an active part in the corporate management of the Division.
- Commitment to ensure that equality policies are actively implemented and developed.
- Genuine interest in working in a multi racial/cultural environment where services are geared to meet users needs.
- Good communication skills.
- Liaison with agencies, e.g. Health and voluntary organisations.
- Commitment to a Quality Service.

Given the nature of the duties and responsibilities and the fact we have so few employees with a disability, particularly at a senior level, we would very much welcome applications from people with a disability.

Essential car user allowance payable and in approved circumstances car loan/lease facilities and relocation expenses of up to £7,312 may be available.

Asian, Afro-Caribbean people and women are under-represented in this area of the Council's work and are therefore positively encouraged to apply.

Informal enquiries to: Sushel Ohri, Divisional Manager, tel. Leicester (0533) 531191 ext. 5026 or Leicester (0533) 532181 (between 5 - 7 p.m.)

Application form and job description from the Director of Social Services, Personnel Section, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RL, tel. Leicester (0533) 657506 (direct line). Closing date: 4th February 1992. Quote ref. KSA/152.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY: Applications are welcome from people regardless of their race, ethnic origin, sex, marital status or disability: disabled applicants will be guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced, and supported by a recognised agency e.g. a DRO.



LEICESTERSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



shad wandsworth

Support & Housing Assistance for people with Disabilities is looking for a full-time

deputy support worker

SCP 22 £13, 965pa (inc ILW)

We are looking for someone with skills in the following areas:

- * Recruitment and support of volunteers
- * Finance and administrative work
- * Liaison with local authority/voluntary groups

You must be able to work as part of a team, and to work well under pressure. In addition you must have a positive attitude towards disabled people living independently.

For an application pack, please write to The Secretary, SHAD Wandsworth, The Nightingale Centre, 8 Balham Hill, London SW12 9EA, or ring 081 875 6095. Closing date for return of completed application forms 15th Jan 1992 and interviews will take place on 24th Jan 1992.

SHAD Wandsworth is working towards Equal Opportunities, and we welcome applications from all sections of the community. Our office is fully accessible, and disabled people are particularly encouraged to apply.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

COMMUNITY LIAISON WORKER (BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITIES)

Ref: H1535 / DN

£18,960 - £20,523 p.a. inc. Plus Casual Car User Allowance

We need a disabled person to help strengthen links between the Council and community groups in Waltham Forest. You will be providing advice, information and support to disability groups, and working with other community groups to assist them in involving disabled people in all their activities. You will make officers and Councillors aware of the concerns and aspirations of disabled people, and you will specialise in supporting Black and Ethnic Minority groups and individuals and their representative organisations.

Some experience of community development/outreach work is essential, and you will need an in-depth knowledge of issues affecting Black and Ethnic Minority disabled people and how the voluntary sector operates, since you will be responsible for establishing the means of full consultation between the Council and all disability organisations locally.

Good communication skills and occasional attendance at evening meetings are essential. Knowledge of a local community language and/or British Sign Language would be an advantage.

This post is available for Job Share.

Job details are available on tape upon request.

Closing date: 3rd February 1992

For an application form and further details apply to Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF (Tel: 081 531 8899 - 24 hour answering service).

An Equal Opportunities Employer

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST EDUCATION OFFICER

Salary £13,500 - £14,000

The Understanding Disability Educational Trust fosters a new awareness of the needs of disabled people and changes attitudes towards disability.

The new Education Officer will build upon the success of the Trust's existing teaching programme for schools and help to produce new materials to meet the needs of adults.

A sound background in teaching with ability to liaise with all levels of teaching staff and play an active role in training seminars is essential. Experience of disability, public relations, the voluntary sector or the media desirable. Telephone and keyboard skills an asset, but training would be provided.

The post (for two years in the first instance) offers a challenge to a person of energy and initiative, with a proven record of good attendance, in a pleasant environment with wheelchair access. The post-holder will be a member of a small supportive team and will play a part in most aspects of the work of a growing charity. We are looking for a good communicator.

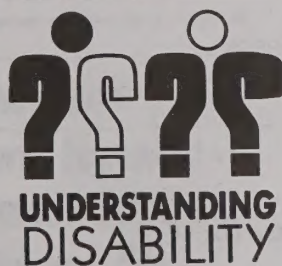
Hours 9am-5.30pm: 20 days' holiday.

UDET particularly welcomes applications from people with disability.

Please write for an application form to:

Brian Ives, Administration Manager, UDET, Weydon School, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8UG. Telephone: 0252 733167.

Closing date for applications 24th January, 1992.



LONDON DISABILITY ARTS FORUM SUPPORT WORKER

The London Disability Arts Forum, the leading arts organisation of disabled people, is looking for a disabled person to take the post of Support Worker to assist in our development work. This is a part time post for two days a week. The candidate must be a motivated and creative person with good organising skills and a commitment to Disability arts and culture.

The work space is fully accessible. Salary £12,885.60 pro rata. For a job description and application form please phone or write to LDAF, The Diorama, 24 Peto Place, NW1.

Closing date is 14th January '92 - interviews 3rd February '92.

LDAF is an equal opportunities employer

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Robert Maxwell
2. Terry Waite
3. Freddie Mercury
4. Frank Bruno
5. Michael Jackson
6. The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey
7. Three men arrested for the murder of PC Keith Blake-lock whose convictions have been challenged through the courts.
8. New Zealand
9. Barclays Bank
10. Integration of the UK into Europe

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- ACROSS: 1. Asthma 4. Faces 7. Timor 8. Pallid 9. Am 11. Queen of Clubs 14. Dole 15. Ado 16. Era 18. Seal 20. Window 22. Ion 23. And 24. Parkin 25. Rising Damp
- DOWN: 1. Antiques Fair 2. Timber 3. Miranda 4. France 5. Coloured in 6. Sid 10. Mood 12. Flowered 13. Spawning 17. Roo 19. Andes 21. Open

Deaf Arts Development Officer

2 year fixed term contract

London WC1 £14,682-17,024 pa

The RNID, in conjunction with SHAPE, London, is now seeking an energetic and enthusiastic person to take on the exciting new fulltime position of Deaf Arts Development Officer.

Responsible to the Director of SHAPE, London you will be promoting and developing the involvement of deaf and hard of hearing people in the arts and other cultural activities. Through cooperation with agencies on a local to national level you will be encouraging the development of Deaf Arts with particular reference to participatory arts, art appreciation and art access at every level.

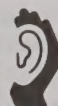
Ideally, you should have an arts related qualification and a good working knowledge of the arts 'scene.' You will have previous experience of working with deaf and hard of hearing people, good communication skills, fluency in BSL (CACDP Stage III) plus sound knowledge of current deaf and hard of hearing related issues.

Closing date: 20th January 1992.

If you feel you have the necessary experience and qualities to succeed in this role, please contact The Personnel Division, RNID, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH; tel: 071-383 3152 (answerphone) or 071-383 3154 (minicom).

The RNID is working towards equal opportunities and particularly welcomes applications from deaf and hard of hearing people.

The Royal National
Institute for the Deaf



BBC Postgraduate Bursary NORTH in Journalism for People with Disabilities

Working in conjunction with the Lancashire Polytechnic Centre for Journalism, BBC North is offering a single bursary to people with disabilities who gain a place on the one year Postgraduate Diploma in Radio and Television Journalism at the Centre.

The bursary is aimed at attracting fresh talent from those people with disabilities who wish to make a future career in journalism. Applications are now being considered for next year's course which starts in September 1992.

If you wish to be considered, please write for an application form before Friday 10th January quoting ref. PBJD to The Centre for Journalism, Lancashire Polytechnic, Preston, Lancashire PR1 2TQ.

Applicants who do not hold a degree will be considered if they have relevant career backgrounds or are mature students.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY



LANCASHIRE
POLYTECHNIC

'OPEN ACCESS' TO JOBS

As the largest City Council in the country and by far the biggest employer in Birmingham, we employ over 50,000 people, and regularly have a number of vacancies of all types and at all levels - manual, craft, office, technical and managerial.

The present make-up of our workforce does not reflect the community it serves. In order to help us change this, we particularly welcome more job applications from women and men with disabilities, who are under-represented in many areas of work.

Interested?... then make sure you see our weekly 'Job Search' which lists all of our current vacancies. It can be seen at all Job Centres, Neighbourhood Offices, most Public Libraries and Recreation and Community Services establishments in Birmingham. You can also obtain 'Job Search' by 'phoning 021-235 3852 during office hours. Selected vacancies also appear in every Thursday's Birmingham Evening Mail.

Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability.

Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary.





Craig Tinsley and Cassandra Pitt join dancer and Wheelchair Dance Association patron Wayne Sleep at the Association's International Festival in Cheltenham in November.

Eye tests back to free levels

As many people are having eye tests now as when they were free, says a new survey.

After the Government abolished free tests in 1989, opticians feared people would not pay, and sight and life threatening conditions would go undetected (DN, May 1990).

Now a survey by the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians (FODO) says 12 million tests were done in

1990-91, the same as 1986-1987. But, it adds, "Over the years 1983-87 ... the volume of sight tests was growing at an average rate of 5.25 per cent. Had the 1989 charges not taken place, it can be assumed that this growth would have continued; if so, the volume in 1991 could be expected to be approaching 15 million."

The average price for a test at the start of 1991 was £13.20.

FODO wants elderly people to be on the "free" list which includes people who have diabetes, registered blind or partially sighted people, and those who need complex lenses.

FODO says: "It is of great concern to opticians that many ocular diseases are being missed because the elderly are not attending for regular eye examinations, perhaps due to anxiety over costs involved."

Taxicard cuts

People with disabilities demonstrated against cuts to London's taxicard scheme in October and November.

The scheme was set up by the Greater London Council in 1984 to provide a subsidised transport service for Londoners with disabilities who could not use London Transport.

It originally provided unlimited travel, but all but six London boroughs have now either axed the scheme or drastically cut the service.

Disabled people have responded with town hall demonstrations in:

- * Ealing - where the council has limited the number of return journeys members can take before April to 30 and decided to stop any new applications to the scheme
- * Camden - where councillors have voted to suspend the scheme when its budget runs out in January 1991

- * Lambeth - where councillors have discussed proposals to cut membership of the scheme from 16,000 to 1,000. Members have been asked to re-apply and state how many journeys a month they require from 1 December-31 March 1992.

Keith Armstrong, chairman of Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users' (DaRT) opposes any cuts to the present scheme. He said: "These reductions will bring genuine hardship to people with disabilities. The taxicard scheme is an essential transport service. If this goes ahead it will make a mockery of any attempt for real care in the community."

DaRT believes that the service should receive funding from central government like any other form of public transport.

It is asking councils to consult with taxicard members before any cuts are made.

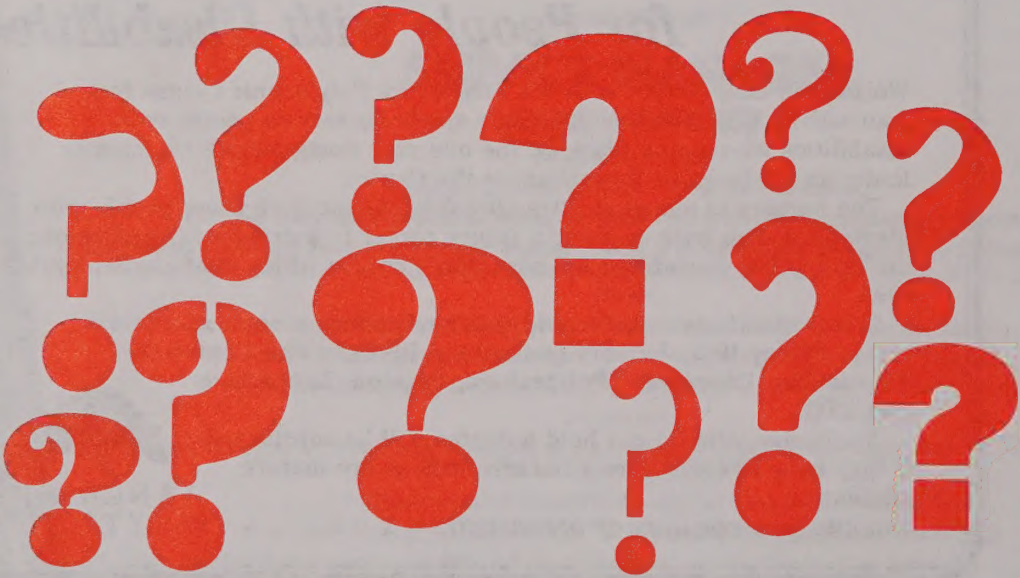
Job-seekers succeed

A new job-finding course has helped 16 disabled people from Tyne and Wear find work.

The four-week course, run by the Industrial Society for the Inland Revenue, provided job-hunting skills, work experi-

ence, confidence-building, and preparation for the Civil Service interview and test.

Of the 20 people on the course, 16 passed the tests and will take up jobs with the Inland Revenue in March.



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- b. A bar of gold
- c. **DISABILITY NOW**

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- a. Wallpaper
- b. Wrapping paper
- c. **DISABILITY NOW**

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- b. Laugh in the face of adversity
- c. **SUBSCRIBE TO DISABILITY NOW**

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